

702

THE
INTEREST
OF
Great Britain
CONSIDER'D;
IN AN
ESSAY
UPON

Wool, Tin and Leather:

Proving by Instances of Fact,

That the Misfortunes which has attended
this Kingdom for above four hundred Years last
past, has been chiefly Occasion'd by the Neglect
of our Commerce; and that the Ballance of Power
in Christendom, is by the Ballance of Trade.

With some Remarks upon the Conceptions
of Sir Josiah Child.

Written by - J. B.

LONDON: Printed for R. and J. Bonnick at
the Red-Lyon in St. Paul's Church-yard, 1707.

INTEREST



6 B C

TO THE
Right Honourable
Robert Harley, Esq;
ONE OF
Her Majesty's Secretaries of
State.

S I R,
YOUR signal Favour and
Countenance in my Six
Years Application to the
Parliament, to prevent the Expor-
tation of our *Wool*, and regulate
the publick Market of *Blackwell-
Hall*, (in which I met with great
Opposition from Men in Power)
hath fixt in me so deep a Sense of
A z that

The Dedication.

— that Kindness, that Nothing can be more grateful than an Acknowledgement ; which hath induced me to dedicate this little Essay upon Trade unto your Honour ; being very sensible that no One is a better Judge of these Affairs than your Self, having to my Knowledge taken a great Deal of Pains to inform your self of the true Grounds and Nature of Commerce.

I have no other Aim herein but to promote the Welfare of my Native Country, nor any other Support to my Confidence in this Undertaking, than the practick Part of Trade, in which I have been exercised above Thirty Years, and entire Satisfaction that Nothing can contribute so much to the
Tran-

The Dedication.

Tranquility of this Kingdom, as
the Security and Improvement of
our *Golden Fleece*.

The Foundation being made
good in the Stop of our *Wool*, the
next Recovery is our Merchandize
and Navigation; which is the chief
End of the ensuing Discourse: And
the indefatigable Pains that you
have taken for the Good of the Pub-
lick, leaves no room in me to doubt
of your Cordial Assistance in due
Time to its Attainment: Since No-
thing can contribute more to the
Renown of the best of QUEENS
in Foreign Parts, and the Encrease
of our Riches at Home, than an
Establishment of our *British* Facto-
ries in Foreign Parts.

That

The Dedication.

That the Blessings of Heaven
may smile upon your Undertakings
in so high a Post, shall be the cc-
stant Prayers of him. That is,

Your Obliged Humble Servant,

To Command,

J. B.

T H E

TO THE
READER.

Friendly Reader,

UPON a great Declension in Trade that happened in the Beginning of the Reign of King William, (of happy Memory) through the vast Exportation of our Wool to Holland, France, and other Foreign Parts, I was deputed by a considerable Body of Clothiers to make Application to our Parliament for some Redress, which I performed with Fidelity and my utmost Application, and not without Success, after some Years Pains.

But whilst I endeavour'd to put a Stop to the Exportation of our Wool, a Book appear'd in the World under the Hand of Sir Josiah Child, advising us, To set our Doors wide open to all our Native Commodities after the Practice of Holland, and telling us, That it was a vain Thing to endeavour to put a Stop to our Wool, for those that

To the Reader.

would give most for a Commodity would be sure to have it.

UPON Perusal of which I took some Pains to shew wherein the Interest of England consists in Point of Trade, and made some Reply to his Arguments; got my Papers Perused, Licensed and Printed: But an unexpected Misfortune attended the Undertaking, in a Stop being put at the Savoy (by Men at that Time in Power) to its Publication, when no other Paper than the Gazette gave any such Intelligence, which has occasioned this Second Essay of the same Kind, as an Appeal for my former Hardship.

And having since been likewise encountred by a certain Doctor of Physick that lived in Beauford-street, who felt the Pulse of our Trade, and found that those Things which for many Years we had complained of, and thought to be our Disease, the low Price of our Commodities, and Cheapness of our Labour must be our Cure. He tells us in the Preface of his Book, That the Subject of Trade is much discoursed of, but little understood, That to form a just Idea of Trade requires a large Compass of Thought
an

To the Reader.

an exact and unprejudiced Judgment to be
versed in the remotest Part of the Globe,
to be learned in the Nature of the Climates,
and to have a Knowledge of our own Laws.
And being endued with these Qualifications
he proceeded to handle the knotty and per-
plex Subject of Trade, in which he tells us,
That he has departed from the common
Roads, slighted some received Opinions,
and disproved some modern Practices,
shewed the Inefficacy and Inconsistency of
our present Laws, in Relation to Trade;
and this not done out of Vanity, but pure-
ly from a Zeal of the Truth. *Parturiunt*
Montes.

He begins his Book with an Information,
That Money is the Standard and common
Measure of Things, and a better conveni-
ency than bartering of Goods for Goods, and
that this Money is brought from *Spain*: *And*
to make us easy under the low Price of our
Products, he endeavours industriously to
lessen their true Value

He tells us, Page 7. That our Commo-
dities are not vendable abroad unless cheap,
when dear, the Merchant will export
Money.

To the Reader.

Money. If our Commodities are not cheap, Foreigners will substitute other Things that will serve for the same Purpose as are cheap; for it's most certain, that Nature doth produce other Substances that may be so wrought by the Craft, Care and Labour of Men, as to serve for the very same Uses as our Cloths and Stuffs do. Page 9.

That it more concerns the Wisdom of our Government to make our Commodities cheap than to encrease them. Page 11.

If Men can't live cheap, they can't labour cheap; and consequently the Effects of their Labour cannot be sold cheap; which is entirely necessary to make them markitable. Page 22.

That it's most certain that the Goods and Manufactures of India, such as Silks, Herbs, &c. are much better besitted for the Use of Spain and the West-Indies than our Woollen, Cloth, Bays, Serges and Stuffs. Page 36.

To fix us in a Belief of these Matters, a considerable Dose of Opium will be needful

To the Reader.

needful, when the greatest Quantity of our Woollen Goods were exported out of England: In the Reign of Queen Elizabeth they bore the highest Price, Wool sold at 28 s. per Todd. He tells us farther, If ours are not cheap, our Neighbours will pour the Fruits and Effects of their Labour upon us.

The Doctor here seems to be a little deficient in the Knowledge of our Laws which prohibit the Importation of Cloth and many other Manufactures that are prejudicial to our Manual Occupations.

Page 32. He tells us, That there are several Goods imported from the East-Indies that are applied to such Uses as none of our Native Commodities will serve, particularly fine Muslings.

*The Consumption of our Woollen Goods in Germany, Flanders and Holland do very much depend upon the Consumption of their fine Flaxen Linnings in England, which has been beat out of Use by these Muslings of India which are purchased with our Bullion. Our fine Kentings of Silesia which was our
most*

To the Reader.

most constant Consumption in Handkerchiefs, and most proper for that Use, are in great Measure cut out by our laudable Fashion of taking of Snuff. Hereby India Silk Handkerchiefs, and dyed Calicoe prevail, the Greek Words $\chi\alpha\lambda\iota\kappa\acute{o}\nu$ $\epsilon\gamma\kappa\epsilon$ that signifieth an ill Habit, seem literally to delineate this Practice, The Nurse-Maid that delivered her Master a white Handkerchief was put to the Blush the next Morning, fearing that she had given by Mistake her little Master's Cackied Clout: And hereby the Consumption of our Woolen Goods is hindred in those cold Countries, which does very much affect the Price of our Wool.

The Doctor has more fully discover'd his Design by telling us in his Preface, That we ought to consider the Variety of Relations that we have to our Neighbours, and the mutual Dependances that are between them and us; how that Trade being made by mutual Consent, cannot be continued but by mutual Advantages; and therefore cannot well be limited and confin'd by Laws on one Side, without a Loss of it to the other, and a Ruin of it to both. Every Sentence here carrieth its Weight, the Variety

To the Reader.

Variety of Relations that we have to our Neighbours, the Boundaries between us and Foreign Nations are very particular, which must be some Hinderance to our Relations; and although many Foreigners inter-marry with our English Women, yet the Government of England had laid a strict Injunction upon our Factories in Flanders, Germany and Holland not to marry any Foreign Woman upon Loss of their Priviledges.

The mutual Dependances that are between them and us, the Merchants of the Hans-Towns from their Assistance of King Henry III. in his Wars abroad, stil'd themselves in England, Merchants of the House of Almain or Tutonicorum. Henry VIII. Motto, cuique adhero vincat was I think a full Ballance to that; and to the Assistance of Queen Elizabeth the very Being of some of our Neighbours seems to be owing in a setled Account, Ten Millions of Florins were due to England, Two of which were abated in Consideration of a Freedom of Trade and Priviledges to our English Subjects in Holland, the Remainder to be paid by Degrees; which was easily made of afterwards with King James I. and the cautionary Town

To the Reader.

Towns delivered up. And I hope at present that our Dependence upon Foreign Nations is not greater then theirs upon us.

How that Trade being made by mutual Consent, cannot be continued but by mutual Advantages. The very Nature of Trade implies a mutual Consent : If what I offer for a Commodity is not thought a Value, I cannot take it by Force, and in Trade between two Nations, if a Prohibition be made, or high Duties imposed upon one Side, Care is usually taken (or at least ought to be) to do the same upon the other ; but too often seen, that Trade may be continued by Bribery or by lending of Sums of Money when there is not a mutual Advantage to the Publick, as I take to be our Case at present in our East-India Trade. Therefore cannot be limited or confin'd by Laws on one Side, without a Loss of it to the other, and a Ruin to both.

*The Practice of England for almost Four Hundred Years past in our Incorporations, which are Limitations of Trade by Law, and the Security of our Merchandise to our own Subjects, by the strict Injunction of the Payment of Aliens Duties : And upon the
other*

To the Reader.

other hand the many Priviledges granted to our English Nation in the Town of Hamborough at Bruges in Flanders, and at Dort in Holland; for the Freedom of Trade do sufficiently confute this Assertion, as may more fully appear in the ensuing Discourse.

The Doctor in this Encouragement of a free Trade and letting in the Young Men of all Foreign Countries into our Merchandise, is building up his own Practice, hereby the Number of our Taverns are evidently increased to double the Number, which occasions the more Physick; and if his Employment did lead to the Venereal Distemper.— Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

I hope this little Consumption of Paper upon the Subject of Trade (though we ought herein I think to be more careful, the making of white Paper being stopt in England by the Use of Mullings) will not be thought unreasonable, whilst we meet such large Volumes of the Original and prodigious Growth of the united Provinces, (whose Dependance is upon Trade) though scarce penfeather'd with the Wings of Time.

To the Reader.

ERRATA.

P A G E 10. Line 30. for *pleas'd* read *plac'd*
p. 22. l. 27. for *Manufactures* r. *Manu-
facturers*, p. 23. l. 12. for *these* r. *four*, p. 24.
l. 16. for *Manufactures* r. *Manufacturers*, Ibid.
l. 20. for *Manufactures* r. *Manufacturers*, p. 31.
l. 18. for *Cure* r. *Care*, p. 62. l. 22. for *Patrem*
r. *Regnum*, p. 64. l. 20. for *Ken* r. *Ren*, p. 72.
l. 19. for *Foxes* r. *Lions*.

THE
INTEREST
OF
Great BRITAIN
CONSIDER'D.

TO the End there should be a
Commerce amongst Men, it
hath pleased God to invite,
as it were, one Nation to Trade with
another, by the Variety of Things
which the one hath and the other
hath not, which the Winds by their
frequent Turnings from one Point to
another, and the Sea by its wonder-
ful Ebbings and Flowings do seem to
declare. And this *Seneca* thought
to be a principal Benefit of Nature,
that there should be a Necessity of
Commerce amongst Men. * In what
a miserable Condition were the Ne-

* *Quod &
Vento Gen-
tis locis dis-
sipatas mis-
cuit, & suo
omnia in
Regiones
ita descrip-
sit, ut ne-
cessarium
Mortalibus
esset inter
ipsos Comer-
cium.*

B
therlands,

therlands, if they received no Supply from other Nations? And if any Kingdom under the Sun can subsist of its self, none has more Reason to bless God than this Island of ours, which is richly adorn'd with all Things necessary for Man's Life and Welfare: Yet notwithstanding so many excellent and valuable Enjoinments, there is so great a Power in the Management and Contrivance of Commerce, that no Nation under the Sun has been under greater Declensions of Trade, at several Periods of Time, than ours: Nor indeed, has any Nation more Inducements to the Encouragement of Commerce, having so great an Over-plus of valuable Commodities that we can spare, and since our chiefest Strength and Security depends upon our Navigation.

And since it is the Bent and Thought of every wise Man in particular, to dispose his Property at the best Advantage he can in a fair Way, and wisely proportion his Expence that his Family may be supported in Credit and Reputation; its likewise the great Concern and Interest of every trading State, to govern the Affairs of Trade in general by such prudent

prudent Rules and Measures, that the Ballance may be kept upon the Credit side, and that the Natural-Born Subject, according to his Birth-right, may be chiefly encouraged by the Influence of his own Native Commodities in point of Merchandise, Manufacture and Navigation, which the Ancient Laws of this Kingdom do sufficiently declare. No *Alien* by our Laws can Purchase Lands in *England*; and in the Ancient Subsidy, successively continued for many *Centuries*, where the Natural-Born Subject paid One Shilling Custom, the *Alien* paid Two.

The good Genius and Vertuous Disposition of our present Government, discovering a fair Prospect to a Settlement of Trade upon this good Foundation, by Her Majesty's Animating Expression, *That Her Heart was Entirely English.*

And no less Presumption and Confidence upon the other Hand, in defending the plausible Title of foreign and private Interest got into Possession, my willingness to add the least Mite to so Generous an Undertaking, having thro' my Education and Practice, gain'd some Experience

in our Woollen-Manufactury (the Mother-Wheel of Trade) hath induc'd me to appear in this little Essay, which possibly may give some Light to those good Patriots of our Country, that are to consider this Important Affair; as likewise upon this farther Consideration, That our Government has been at a considerable Expence for many Years past, in a Commission of Trade, who never thought the stop of our Wool from Exportation to be an Article within their Province, and if little of Consequence do herein offer it self, yet still it will be Cheap.

I will endeavour herein to be as brief as possible I can, and strictly confine my self to Matters of Fact. I might in the first Place enlarge very much upon the great Blessings we enjoy in the Fruitfulness of the Soil we live in, abounding in all sorts of Excellent Provisions, which is the Foundation and Support of Commerce, as likewise upon the distinguishing Favour of Providence in our natural Bounds and Security, as we are encompassed by the Sea, and those many Commodious Ports and Havens so well Accommodated to our Navigation,

Great Britain Consider'd.

5

Navigation, which are no small Advantages, if we secure our Wool and other Materials from Exportation : But it will be needful likewise to consider here before I proceed, how liable we are to be depriv'd of the greatest Blessings in Trade that we enjoy, our most Valuable Commodities being render'd by Water Carriage cheaper to Foreign Countries than to our chiefest Parts of Manufactures in *England*, and easie to be Ship'd off in Creaks and bye Places ; and hereby the cheap Workmanship of Foreign Countries will soon undermine us in our Foreign Trade, if not Import upon us Commodities of our own Growth, which I am sure was the Practice from *France* in the Reign of King *Charles* the Second. I wish the Difficulties that this Island Encounter, herein were duly consider'd by those at the Helm, and the Wisdom of our Ancestors in those Wool-Sacks in our *House of Lords*. The Interest of our Neighbours round about us is so great in this Particular, that no Opportunity will ever be let slip to gain an Advantage to themselves ; and we can't reasonably Promise our selves any Security, unless our chief-

est Ministers are true Proof against the *Lewis d'Ores* or *Skillings*; the best Laws will soon sleep, when the Execution is discouraged by Men in Power.

Corrupt Magistrates says *Tully*, are the Bane of a Common Wealth. I would to the Heavens, says *C. Pontius* the Samnite, That Fortune had reserv'd me for another Age, and kept me from coming into the World, till the Romans had began to take Bribes; if this had been, I should soon have put an End to their Empire. He had been fully gratified had Fortune reserv'd him for our Times, nor are we in less Danger from those within our selves; *Clandestine Trade* does yield a particular Advantage to some sorts of People, that would make but a small Figure in Merchandise without it; and I fear, we have some of a more considerable Rank that would have our Wool Transported, that there might be the more room for their *Indian Manufactory*. We are told by *Sir Josiah Child*, That it is impossible to secure our Wool from Exportation, that those that will give the best Price for a Commodity will be sure to have it; and Advised likewise by him, To set our

Dqors

Great Britain Consider'd.

7

Doors wide open to all native Commodities, after the Practice of Holland.

It will be needful to fix the Ballance of Trade that has been so much discou'rsed of before I proceed, which centers in this single Point.

If our Imports in the General exceed our Exports, the Ballance must be made good by us to Foreign Nations in Treasure; if our Exports exceed our Imports, the Ballance must be made good to us by Foreign Nations in the like Manner; which is, and ever will be the Ballance of Trade: And to endeavour to divert this natural Course by any artificial Way, will prove as ineffectual as to endeavour to stop the Current of a River, as I shall find occasion to shew hereafter, where Attempts of this Kind has been made: But must here observe, that upon which side soever the Ballance is, that a farther Advantage is likewise gain'd in the Course of the *Exchange*. If more Money is offer'd upon the *Exchange* of *London* than there are Bills arising out of our Manufactures sold abroad, the Course of *Exchange* will thereby be lower'd, as must be the Consequence, when we buy more Foreign

reign Commodities than we Sell abroad: And so on the contrary, as was never felt more than in the Reign of King *William*, when so much of our Wool was Exported, we lost at that Time by the *Exchange* above Twenty Five per Cent.

To keep the Ballance upon our Side is what I herein offer at, as our Treasure doth ebb and flow, so doth our Strength, Money being the Sineurs of State and War.

As our Trade declines so must our People which depend thereupon, or remain as a Burthen through want of Employment.

In order hereto, I shall confine my self to the Consideration of our Wool, Tin and Leather, which are the Three chief Commodities upon which our Trade depends. The Difference in parting with our Wool as Nature gave it us, and selling it abroad fully Manufactured, will in the first Place differ the Ballance of our Account One Million per Annum. The Export of our Woolen Manufactures in the Fifth Year of King *William*, I am satisfied, was less by One Million, than in the last Year of Her present Majesty. The French
Refugee

Great Britain Consider'd.

9

Refugee that recommended the Relief of the *Cevenois*, tells us, That One Million of our Woolen Manufactures per Annum are now Ship'd off more than in the Reign of King Charles II. which I believe is true, we had more Wool Ship'd off in the Reign of King William, than at any time before.

One Pound of Wool is capable of being improv'd to Two Guineas in Value in fine Stockings, and in many of our finest Stuffs, the Workmanship is four Times the Value of our Wool, and of so comprehensive an Excellency, that it may be improv'd to the thickest Felt, which will secure from the most violent Storms, and be likewise drawn to the thinnest Crape, which will render it an acceptable Commodity both in hot and cold Climates; so far improv'd these late Years in flower'd, strip'd and chequer'd Cloth, that the gayest Fancy may herein be gratified in all sorts of Furniture: We now out-do the *Hollanders* in their last Effort upon us in fine thin Blacks, and the Imployment that Fifty Thousand Packs of Worsted - Wool doth afford is very Considerable, which is not so little that we have had

had stole from us in one Year, besides vast Quantities of other Sorts. He that said, *That England was a mighty Animal that would never die, unless it destroy its self, without*, peradventure had his Thoughts at that Time fix'd upon our Golden-fleece. Whether *Ovid* aluded to this Commodity of ours, when *Jason* Sail'd to steal the Golden-fleece, assisted by *Medea's* Charms to surprise those *Dragons* that guarded it with their Steel-tip'd Horns? I am not Antiquary enough to determine. But we are furnish'd with a latter President of the same Kind, from the Policies of *France* in the Dutcheſs of *Portsmouth*, that came upon the same Errand. The Strength of *England* is very particular in this Commodity of ours, as *Samson's* was in his Locks; and how easie he was surpris'd by these Charms? We are well inform'd, our Woollen-Manufactures never suffer'd more in *England*, than when *Venus* is our governing Star. Lite Commodities are always most encouraged by lite Women, *Similis simili gaudet*, and a Bribe to obtain a Benefit, is never better pleas'd then in her Hand; who by such Charms as these

these can Influence the Prince, and thereby govern our Fashions: As lite loose *Indian* Garments are a Conveniency to this Exercise upon one Hand, no better a Shelter than a Fur-below-Scarf to an Inconveniency that may happen upon the other. There needs no Encouragement to this gainful Practice when Money is gain'd upon both Hands, for the Confirmation of which, I only refer to the *East-India* Article for secret Service. We herein suffer very much in the Consumption of many of our fine Stuffs at home, and by the Wear of Muslings and fine Calicoes, our Trade in *Germany*, *Flanders* and *Holland* is likewise discouraged; the Use of their fine Flaxen-lines being thereby prevented in *England*, which has forc'd some Parts of *Germany* upon a Woollen-Manufacture for their Subsistence; and these cold Countries are the only proper Places for our Woollen-Manufactures.

The next Commodity is our *Tin*, valuable in it self, and in a Manner, peculiar to *England*, and as well to be dispos'd in foreign Countries when wrought up into Pewter as in Blocks of *Tin*, which would very much add

to

to the Ballance of our Account, and secure a vast Employment to the Labourers in this Commodity; which was very much consider'd by our Ancestors in respect of its true making, as likewise in preventing the making of it in foreign Parts: A Power was given to our Justices of Peace in the Reign of *Henry VII.* to seize Utensils of Pewter that were not kept to the standard Goodness: And by a Law made in the Reign of *Henry VIII.* if any *English* Man went over into foreign Parts to instruct them in this Manufacture, he was thereby Disfranchis'd of being any more an *English* Man. A Commodity that is as Ornamental as Useful: A *Kitching* well adorn'd with Ranges of our finest Pewter was very beautiful, and 'twas *Joan's* Delight to keep it fine whilst clad with a *Kersey* Peticoat; but since she has been puffed up with the Lustre of her Collicoe Mantua, and *Madam's* Heart has been set upon her *China* Ware in the *Parlor*, (the high Mode of our late Times) a poor Chare-woman (reduc'd by this Alteration) must do this Drudgery; and our *Kitching* Hospitality hereby sunk to exercise our *China* Ware with *Coffee* and

and *Tea* in the *Parlor*, to the great Discouragement of our own Products.

Had the *French King* such a Commodity in his Dominions, an Earthen Chamber-pot would be an Eye-sore to him, whatever might be suggested of the Smell *Odor*. *Lucr* would sway the Point whilst I expect that our nicest Ladies will herein take up with *China* too, being so resplendent and agreeable to their Muslings.— It's true, pity that so noble a Commodity of ours should suffer so much by the vast Importation of *Delph* and *China-Ware*, the Use of Pewter in many Utensils is hereby discontinued: We have *China* Cesterns imported upon us from *India*.

We have in *England* at this Time, as much *China Ware*, *Pantiles*, *Cruck-tuiles* of *Delph* and *Dutch Pictures*, as cost (I dare affirm) Fifteen Hundred Thousand Pounds. A very sorry Article to Inventory; whereas our Pewter, after many Years Service, will produce into few Pence in a Shilling of what it cost at first; and be secure from Accidents, which at present in these brittle Commodities is like a Rent-Charge, and doubles our Expence.

The

The next is our *Leather*, a Commodity that we abound in *England* and *Ireland*, and of that intrinsic Value, that it will produce Money if there be any in *Christendom*: No Person will wear *Wooden Shooes*, that has Money at command to buy *Leather*: And this Commodity will treble its Value in the Ballance of our Account, being transported in *Shooes*, and be a very agreeable Employment to our Corporations. The Exportation of *Leather* in the Reign of *Queen Elizabeth* was stop'd under the strictest Penalty, as likewise in the beginning of the Reign of *King Charles II.* tho' afterwards in the same Reign (whether by the Power of *Medea's Charms* or otherwise) a Law likewise was made to give free Liberty to Export it, which Law was continued in the beginning of the Reign of *King William*, and is still in force, and hereby a vast Imployment is lost in *England*; and did we repeal that Law, we need not want Informations, how to humour Foreign Fashions. Hereby a small Persecution would soon arise amongst Journey-men - Shooe-makers in Foreign Parts. The Use of this Commodity is likewise discontinued
in

in many drinking Utensils, as is hinted to us in the old Song, *Had it but been in a Leather-bottle, &c.* and the laudible Fashion of black Jacks is as old as *Erasmus bibitur ex Ocreis.*

The Government of our Fashions to promote the Consumption of these Commodities especially in the two first is of great Moment to be consider'd; and we are herein very well instructed by our nearest Neighbours, in Commodities that no way come in Competition with ours, which (by Vertue of the Fashion) prevails, and ours we see lie by. It will likewise very much conduce to our Advantage herein, if due Care was taken in a full Improvement of these Commodities, in preventing their being strain'd, in keeping our Pewter to a well-govern'd Allay, and in taking due time in tanning our Leather; in all which, the Wisdom of our Ancestors is very clear, and does very much correct our Negligence, to gain an Employment for 100 Persons, is an Article of Value in the Riches and Strength of a Nation; and how many 1000 might hereby be employed which we neglect, and at the same time promote Foreign Manufactures of Brasses, Wire, Iron, &c. by laying high Duties, which

which only serve to promote the Interest of some private Persons, and the Publick suffer twice as much in the Discouragement of our Woollen Manufactory in Sweden and other cold Countries, whilst we herein seemingly cross the very Design of Providence, in distributing his Blessings, that one Nation may have a Dependence upon another.

The next Thing of Course to be consider'd in the Ballance of our Trade, is our Merchandise.

Which in some former Accounts that I have seen made up Debtor and Creditor, in the whole Traffick of our Nation; 15 per Cent Profit was allow'd, which in Two Millions exported, in which English Merchants have little or no share at this time, our Loss amounts to 300000 l per Annum.

The next is our Freight out and home which is brought to a lower Ebb, and this can't be reckoned at less than 5 per Cent. which amounts to 100000 l. per An.

And it's a melancholy Thought to consider how our Strength is hereby lessened by the Loss of Seamen, which would be ready at hand in this home Trade upon all Occasions, and be acquainted in our own Seas. 'Twas out of these Trades that our Bedford and Talbors

Talbots sprung up in former Days; instead of which we see whole Fleets, from *Hamburg*, *Bremen*, *Holland* and the *East Country* of foreign Ships carrying and recarrying our Merchandises.

The next Loss to be consider'd is in the Price of our Goods sold, which we may fairly reckon *Twenty per Cent.* We have many *Merchants* now living that can testify, that the same Cloth in every respect, now sold at Six Shillings per Yard, was in their Time sold at Eight; and in Reason it can't be otherwise, if we consider the different Way in their Disposal: The *Merchants* at that Time, sent over their Goods to their Ware-houses in *Hamburg*, *Flanders* and *Holland* in two Shippings a Year, and disposed them to other *Merchants* or *Groceers* that came out of *Germany* and other Parts at Six Months Time, allowing the Discount to those that paid ready Money, and disposing other Obligations as they saw fit, to other Rich Men that made a Benefit in buying up such Bills, or keeping the Obligations until the Expiration of the Time to their own Benefit; by which Means the Price was encourag'd upon our Side, we being

C

the

the Lenders. The last Disposal of our Goods is now by the Makers or by Agents, which Act for them, (which makes the Matter worse) to foreign Factors, or *English Men* that act in Commission for foreign *Merchants* in a clandestine Manner; the publick Market of *Blackwel-hall* being of no Advantage to the *Clothiers*. The Maker's Stocks are easily overpower'd by every little stop and delay in Trade, that may easily be contriv'd; and the Weakness of one Man's Stock is hereby a Prejudice to others, the Price of Goods being thereby sunk; the Effect of which is plainly seen at this Time in the unheard Price of our Goods.

And as our Commodities are hereby beat down, foreign Commodities are upon the other Hand advanc'd upon us, which are most imported by foreign *Merchants*, and sold in *England* at long Credit, which is the Advantage of the Seller according to *Solomon*, who tells us, *That the Borrower is Servant to the Lender*. Whilst our Wollen-Manufactures were exported by *English Merchants*, most of our Imports were likewise bought by them in foreign Markets for the Service

vice of *England*, ^{2^d} fold at lower Prizes. The Linnens of *Germany* and *Flanders* are hereby advanc'd; the Whale-bone and Spicery of *Holland* are sold at almost double Price, allowing for the extravagant high Duties, which I take to be a very impolitick Method of raising of Money, and very rare that it answers its End; especially whilst such Draw-backs are allow'd upon Exportation: Was this Matter strictly Examined, at this Time it would be found no way to answer its End: Fair Traders are only hereby beat out of Trade, and Smuglers get the Profit: The meanest Officer at the *Custom-house* ought to be true Proof in this Case against Bribery. Our advanc'd Duties upon Oyl, Soap and Dying-Wares, are evidently Prejudicial to our Trade, and whilst we have taken off Sixty Thousand Pounds *per Annum* from our Woollen-Manufactures exported, to clog them again this Way is Blowing hot and cold, but in both very beneficial to *Holland*, especially in Dying-Wares, whilst most of our Goods are exported White to *Holland*, and hereby other Trades likewise suffer, as *Dyers, Tillit-Painters, Pres-*

fers, &c. Nay, hereby the *Dutch*
Merchants at *Cales* has an Advantage
 they are of the *English*, in that he is able to
 have take off larger Quantities of *Cocheneal*.
 The foreign *Merchants* has many Ad-
 vantages upon the *English* in an open
 Trade by the low Interest of Money;
 the vast Quantities of Corn that they
 take from the *Baltick*, gives them
 great Advantage in the Disposal of
 their Goods in those Parts; the
 Quantities of *Lisborn* Sugars that
 they take from the *Portuguese* is like-
 wise the same, whilst we are serv'd
 from our own Plantations. And this
 leads me to our next Disadvantage in
 the Ballance of our Accounts, the
 Exportation of our Goods not fully
 Manufactured.

A All our *Exeter* Serges go over
 White, and most of our Cloth expor-
 ted to *Holland*, which was carefully
 avoided in former Times. Our Manu-
 factures are now made use of to mix
 with the *Dutch*, and thereby to for-
 ward the Sale of theirs. Nay, many
 of ours are sold abroad for *Dutch*
 Cloth. The Buyer in former Times
 was sure of true *English* Goods in
 our Ware-houses abroad without any
 Mixture; which preserv'd the Re-
 putation

putation of our *English* Cloth, and promoted its Consumption.

The next that I shall mention is the Debasing our Manufactures, which in this interlooping Way of Commerce of late Years has been very signal, and hereby the Consumption very much lessen'd. No Law can be effectual to secure the Goodness of Goods, when the Buyer will encourage and take off bad Goods: And it's no good Policy to intrust the Guardianship of our Manufactures to those who have likewise Manufactures of their own of the same Kind to prefer. It was the Interest of the *English Merchant* to get good Goods, thereby to keep up the Reputation of his Ware-house. And a Cloth marke of good Reputation, was reckon'd in former Times a good Legacy for a Child.

The last that I shall mention in this Alteration of our Course of Merchandise, is the growth of *Wool-jobbers*, *Factors* and *Ware-house men*; hereby our Woollen-Manufactures are loaded with a needless Charge of Ten per Cent. The *English Merchants* bought their Goods of the Makers, and enabled them to buy their Wool of the Growers; and the publick Market or

The Interest of

Blackwel-ball was free to the Clothier to dispose his own Goods, which is now converted into a Rent-charge of many Thousand Pounds *per Annum*, out of our Cloth, and under Pretence of a Charity to the City, the Country is Begger'd.

To support the present Course of Merchandise, (which is most by Commission) a Credit of Six Months Time is establish'd with most of the Cloth that is sold: This Cloth being paid for by Bills drawn upon their Correspondents in foreign Parts, the Bills of Lading are needful to be received Abroad before there is a Safety in accepting of Bills. And by this Credit the Factor secures to himself a Profit out of Wool, that the Clothier is hereby necessitated to take of the Wool-jobbers.

By Sums of Money Collected of the Principals Abroad, (as can be proved) and by the Joint-interest of these Four Occupations, exerted to the very utmost in the Command of all the Manufactures of *England*, in all our Elections a Disturbance is hereby occasion'd to the State. By this Credit the Wool is procur'd much the cheaper of the Grower, all Pay-
ment

ments being politickly stop'd at Sharing Time, to make Money the scarcer at that time of the Year.

In all these Particulars, I dare undertake, that we loose at this Time above One Million *per Annum*, which seems to deserve our speedy Consideration.

I now proceed briefly to shew from former Instances of Fact, that the Misfortunes which *has* happen'd to *England* for these Hundred Years last past, *has* been evidently occasion'd by the Neglect of our Commerce, and that the Ballance of Power in Christendom is by the Ballance of Trade.

The *Hans* Towns in *Germany* and *Flanders* having assisted *Henry III.* in his Wars Abroad, obtain'd for a Recompence great Priviledges in *England*, to be made a Corporation of *Merchants*, to have a seperate Parcel of Ground assign'd them for their Habitation, called the *Still-yard*; the Rent of which Place is paid to them to this Day. The Chief of their Merchandise was our *English* Wool, which they carried to *Antwerp* and other Towns in *Flanders* to be Manufactur'd, and afterwards sent it in Cloth up the *Baltick*, from whence they brought

many Commodities which they vend-
ed here: The other Part of it was
brought back in Cloth into *England*.
Trade was continu'd in this Channel
unto the Reign of *Edward III.* a Prince
possess'd with a Heart entirely *Eng-
lish*, who by prudent and successful
Means brought our Wool to a Manu-
facture at Home, for the Good of his
own Subjects. He put a Stop to the
Exportation of our Wool for some
convenient Time, under the strictest
Penalty; and forbad the Wear of
any Cloth but what was made in
England: And gave all possible encou-
ragement to foreign Manufactures to
come into *England*, in which Un-
dertaking he was very successful:
And afterwards to advance his own
Manufactures, his Care was more sig-
nal in establishing a Staple, to which
all Wool, Wool-fells and Leather
were brought and paid a considerable
Duty, and were afterwards exported
by *English Merchants* to *Callis* in our
own Ships, and sold there by an *Eng-
lish* Factory to *Flanderkins* and other
foreign Traders; and our *English* Fa-
ctory were strictly forbad to sell any
Wool for Merchant-Strangers that
liv'd in *England*. A considerable Ad-
vantage

vantage was hereby gain'd out of our Wool in a Merchandise from *England* to *Callis*; then sold there by *English* Men to Foreigners, after a considerable Duty was paid to the Government in *England*, which rendered our Wool dear Abroad, and thereby encourag'd our Manufactures at Home. He made sumptuary Laws, directing what Habits all Degrees of People should wear. —

I have seen a Ballance of Trade, which is said to be found upon Record in the *Exchequer*, in the Eight and Twentieth Year of this Reign, in which our exported Commodities amounted to Two Hundred Ninety Four Thousand, One Hundred Eighty Four Pounds, Seventeen Shillings and Two Pence; and our Commodities imported to Thirty Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred and Seventy Pounds, Three Shillings, and Six Pence.

The Ounce of Silver was current at this Time at Twenty Pence, as it had continu'd for above Seven Hundred Years, from *Osbright*, a *Saxon* King of *England*: It was advanc'd to Thirty Pence in the Reign of *Henry VI.* advanc'd to Forty Pence by *Edward IV.* to Five and Forty Pence
by

by Henry VIII. and to Sixty Pence by Edward VI. as *Garad de Maline* gives the Account.

Notwithstanding the Custom of Wool was very Valuable to this Government, yet a Power was given by Law to the *Chancellor* and *Treasurer*, by the Advice of the King's Council, to put a Stop to the Exportation of Wool when they saw fit. And the Two last Laws made in this Reign were for the Encouragement of our Woollen-Manufactures. What Improvement was hereby made in the Affairs of *England*, I refer to the Historian.

The *Merchants* of the *Still-yard*, who by these Measures were very much check'd in this Trade, became as much the Favourites in the Reign of his Grandson, *Richard II.* whether by Bribery or *Medea's* Charms I know not, he made *England* a free Port, and gave a general Invitation by Act of Parliament to all foreign *Merchants* to come with their Goods and Trade freely in all Parts of his Dominions, as well within Franchise as without, by Gross or Retail, to be under his safe Protection, and as freely depart into their own Countries.

tries again; and if any Corporation gave them any Disturbance they should forfeit their Charter: He likewise gave them Liberty to Transport half their Money. This soon made a very great Uneasiness among the *Kentish* Men, (in which Parts the Cloth Trade was first establish'd) even to a Rebellion. He Married the Lady *Ann*, Daughter to the Emperor *Charles* IV. who very much encourag'd her Country-men the *Bohemians*: And as the Historian tells us, she brought in high-headed Attire pick'd with Horns, and long-train'd Gowns for Women, to the great Encouragement of foreign Manufactures. But alas, these mistaken Measures, (tho' furnish'd with a presant Advantage by the *Still-yard Merchants*, who paid their Custom before-hand) soon drain'd the Treasure to that low Ebb, that this unfortunate Prince was denied a Loan of One Thousand Pounds by the City of *London*, and was forc'd shamefully to resign his Government; which Misfortune was evidently occasion'd by the Neglect of our Commerce, which was so happily advanc'd by his Grandfather *Edward* III. *Henry* IV. who succeeded him perceiving the Mis-

Mischiefs that his Kingdom sustain'd by these Practices, oblig'd all foreign *Merchants* to bestow their whole Money upon Commodities of this Kingdom, and gave them no more Liberty in *England*, than *English Merchants* had in foreign Parts. And in the Eighth Year of his Reign, he granted a Charter to some *English Merchants* to Trade to *Zeland*, *Brabant* and *Flanders*. Henry V. confirm'd the aforesaid Charter to the *English Merchants*. And in the Eighth Year of his Reign he oblig'd every Merchant-Stranger to bring One Ounce of *Bullion* of Gold to the *Mint* to be Coin'd for every Sack of Wool he bought, and One Ounce of Gold, or the Value in *Bullion* of Silver, for every Three Pieces of Tin, upon Forfeiture of the Wool and Tin. But alas, this was no effectual Cure; for did the Imports at that Time exceed the Exports, that very Money so Coin'd would soon be issued out of the Kingdom to pay the Debts.

Henry VI. confirm'd the Charter to the *English Merchants*, to Trade to *Zeland*, *Brabant* and *Flanders*. And proceeded in the Method of his Predecessors unto the Eighteenth Year

Year of his Reign, having in these Three Reigns been involved in Wars Abroad and Disturbances at Home, in the Differences between the Houses of *York* and *Lancaster*. Foreign Merchants always make their Advantage upon *England* when we are engag'd in Wars Abroad, and Disturbances at Home. At this Time the Trade of *England* came under Consideration, which was reduc'd to a very low Ebb by the Exportation of our Wool in Cricks and By-places. A new Law was made to prevent the Exportation of our Wool to any other Parts than *Callis*, upon the strictest Penalty; and such effectual Care was taken herein, the remaining part of this Reign, that the Duke of *Burgundy* prohibited all *English* Manufactures from coming into his Dominions, upon which all Merchandise growing or wrought in the said Duke's Dominions, was stop'd from coming into *England* as appears by the Statute. The Custom upon Wool exported, sunk to less than Twelve Thousand Pounds *per An.* at this Time, which in the Reign of *Edward III.* amounted to Sixty Eight Thousand Pounds *per Annum*, as is express'd

in the Statute. In the Twenty Eighth Year of this Reign, the Law to prohibit the Merchandise of the Duke of *Burgundy* from coming into *England*, was confirm'd for Seven Years.

Edward IV. who succeeded him took a more effectual Way to the Cure of this Evil, after the Example of *Edward III.* by appointing by Law, what kind of Apparel Men and Women of all Vocations should wear, which put an effectual Stop to the Importation of many foreign Manufactures, and secur'd our *Bullion* from Exportation: He likewise, at the same Time, prohibited the Importation of wrought Silks. He confirm'd the Charter of the *English* Merchants Trading to *Zeland*, *Brabant* and *Flanders*, and call'd in Question the Charter of the Merchants of the *Still-yard*, who had committed many Forfeitures, upon which they were forc'd to pay a considerable Sum of Money. And their Charter continu'd upon this strict Condition, That they would colour no foreign Goods. This so far disgusted the *Hans* Towns, that some Hostilities were offer'd to *England*. Effectual Care was taken at this Time to prevent

vent the Exportation of our Wool to any other Place than *Calis* upon double Forfeiture of the Wool to the King and the Informer, which drew over abundance of Woollen-Manufactures from *Flanders*, and disgusted the Duke of *Burgundy* so far, that he put out a Proclamation for the Banishment of all *English* Cloth out of his Dominions; upon which a Law was made, That no Merchandise of the Growth or Workmanship of any of the Countries subject to the Duke of *Burgundy* should be brought into this Realm, until he revoked the said Proclamation, in which he was forc'd to comply. Effectual Care was at this Time taken for the true Making of our Woollen Goods, and to hinder all Persons from Buying any Wool, that did not make them into Yarn, or some sort of Manufacture, for a certain limited Time of the Year after Shearing-time, that the Manufacturers of *England* might have the Preference in Buying of Wool; which was a very politick Step for the Good of Trade. Many good Laws were made in the Reign of *Richard III.* who succeeded him, in Favour of the Natural-born Sub-

Subjects to England. The vast Numbers that came into England with their Wives and Families, and repair'd to the City of London and other Towns, begat an Uneasiness among the Natural-born Subjects, these settling in our easie Handicraft Employments, as making of Cloth, &c. and will not take upon them any laborious Occupations, as going to Plough or Cart, or other like Business; and will in no wise suffer or take any of the King's Subjects to work with them. And many of the said Merchants, when they had got good Substances, repair'd into foreign Countries to spend the same. Upon which Complaint, very severe Laws were made, viz. That no Person not Born under the King's Obaisance, shall exercise or occupy any Handicraft Employments, but only be Servants to such of the King's Subjects only as be Expert and Cunning in such Feats, Arts and Artifices, which the said Strangers can occupy, or depart the Kingdom. Nor that any Alien not made Denizen, shall make any Cloth, or put any Wool to Work in this Realm.

The true English Spirit continu'd in like manner in the succeeding Reign of Henry VII. who by the Second

cond Law that he made, enjoyn'd *Aliens* made Denizens by Letters Patents, and by Act of Parliament, to pay *Aliens* Duties, no way excepting the Merchants of the *Still-yard*. And strictly enjoyn'd the Entry of all Goods in the Name of the true Owner of the Goods, upon Forfeiture of the Goods, Imprisonment, and to be Fin'd at the King's Pleasure. A Law respecting our true *English* Interest, that deserves to be wrote in Letters of Gold, and fix'd upon every Corner of our *Custom-house*. He prohibited all Cloth from being exported until it was Barbed, Rowed and Shorne above the Value of Forty Shillings. He established the *English* Merchants Trading to *Zeland*, *Brabant* and *Flanders*, and gave them the Title of *Merchant-Adventurers*; who by this little Advantage in Custom upon the Merchants of the *Still-yard*, became a very flourishing Company, and after Ten Years Experience, he renew'd the Law to oblige *Aliens* made Denizens to pay the same Duty as *Aliens*. Great Care was likewise taken at this Time to reform Men's Lives; a Proclamation was order'd to be read four Times in the Year, to quicken the Justices
D of

of Peace to execute their Office, who were at this Time complain'd of; and Direction given by the Law to any Person that was not Redress'd in his Complaint to a Justice of Peace, to apply himself to the King or his Chancellor. A Law was at this Time made, That no Person shall Freight in a Stranger's Ship to be brought into this Realm, or carried forth, if he may have sufficient Freight in the same Port in a Denizen's Ship. And a Law was likewise made, to stop any Person from Buying of Wool for Ten Years, that did not make Yarn or Cloth thereof, before the Assumption of our *Lady* next after the Sharing thereof: Nor any Merchant Stranger before the Purification of our *Lady*, in Favour of the Manufactures, and Advancement of the Cloathing Trade in *England*. The Stop of our Wool from Exportation, and Encouragement of our *English* Merchants, made a very great Alteration in the Riches and Tranquility of this Kingdom; whereas *Richard II.* was denied a Loan of One Thousand Pounds by the City of *London*. There was at the Death of this Prince left in the Treasury

Treasury, One Million, Eight Hundred Thousand Pounds, which was in Value, according to our Coin, Two Millions, Four Hundred Thousand Pounds, the Ounce of Silver being current at this Time at Forty Pence; and from such good Laws as these, which were continu'd his whole Reign, I can't see how he should become Odious to his People, as we are told by the Bishop of *Salisbury*. *Henry VIII.* came to the Crown in the flourishing Time of his Age, and which is very Remarkable, Merchant-*Aliens* became as much the Favourites of this Reign, as they were discourag'd in the last, whether by Bribery or *Medea's* Charms I know not. At the Death of *Henry VII.* a former Law, which prohibited Men of *Callis* to be Factors for Merchant-*Aliens* that liv'd in *England* was repeal'd, as likewise all Laws, Ordinances, &c. made in derogation of the Merchants of the *Still-yard*, or *Tutonicorum*.

In the first Year of this Reign, the excellent Law made in the Third Year of *Henry VII.* was repeal'd, that oblig'd all Goods to be enter'd in the true Owner's Name. The next Place, Strangers, Artificers were allow'd to

exercise their Trades in *England*, contrary to the Law made in the Reign of *Richard III.* which occasion'd so great Discontent in *England*, that a Decree made in the *Star-Chamber*, was forc'd to be put forth, prohibiting all Strangers not made Denizens to keep Houses or Shops. A Power was given to this King by Act of Parliament to settle the Price of Custom upon Goods by his Proclamation, by which means *Aliens* Duties were taken off for a certain Number of Years, as appears by a Proviso in a Law made in the Thirty Second Year of this Reign, which gave so great Advantage to the foreign Merchants of the *Hans* Towns, that our *English* Merchandises and Navigation was almost totally rooted out: They Shipp'd off Forty Four Thousand Cloths in a Year, and our Merchants but Eleven Hundred, as we are told by the Bishop of *Salisbury*. These *Hans* Towns bordering upon *Flanders*, and other Provinces belonging to the *Spaniards*, where vast Quantities of our *English* Wool was Manufactur'd, the *Spaniards* was hereby highly advanc'd in Riches.

The

Great Britain Consider'd.

37

The *Portuguese* at this Time likewise dispossest the *Venesians* of the *East-India* Trade, and found great Vent for their Goods in *England*; our Fashions at this Time being govern'd by lite Women: They Collected Twenty *per Cent.* out of their *East-India* Goods, brought Home by their Ships, and afterwards sold them to Profit in other Countries, which occasion'd the Disturbances that happen'd afterwards in the Reign of *Queen Elizabeth*, by the *Spaniard's* Ambition in putting up for universal Monarch, which was evidently owing to the Neglect of our Commerce in this long Reign of *Henry VIII.* and had not this Prince supported himself by the Church-lands, he might have felt the ill Consequences of it himself.

Our Affairs being at this low Ebb, the Native Subjects of *England* receives Life again by the happy Succession of *Edward VI.* who with great Difficulty did much in turning the Scale of Affairs, and settling of Trade upon its right Basis. The *Merchant-Adventurers* begin now to take Courage, (the Bribes of the *Still-yard* Merchants finding no Admission in this

Government) and in the beginning of the Year 1552 they put in their Complaint to the Councel against them, to which the Merchants of the *Still-yard* put in their Answer upon the Eighteenth Day of *January* in the same Year, and upon the Twenty Fifth the Answer was deliver'd to some learned Councel to look and over-see it: Upon the Eighteenth Day of *February* the *Merchant-Adventurers* put in their Replication to the *Still-yard's* Answer. And upon the Twenty Third a Decree was made by the Board, *That upon Knowledge and Information of their Charters they had found. First, That they were no sufficient Corporation. Secondly, That their Numbers, Names and Nations were unknown. Thirdly, That when they had forfeited their Liberties, King Edward IV. did restore them on this Condition, That they should colour no Strangers Goods, which they had done; for these Considerations, Sentence was given, that they had forfeited their Liberties, and were to be no more than Strangers.* Upon the Twenty Eighth (losing no Time in this important Affair) there came Ambassadors from *Hamburg, Lubeck,* and the Regent of *Flanders* to speak
on

on the Behalf of the *Still-yard* Merchants, (so unwilling were they to part with this Interest) and upon the Second of *March* the Answer for the Ambassadors of the *Still-yard* was committed to the Lord Chancellour; the Two Secretaries, Sir *Robert Bowes* and Sir *John Baker*, Judge *Mountague Griffith*; Solicitors, *Gosnold*, *Goodrick* and *Brooks*; by which it's evident, that it was thought a Matter of Weight. It remain'd under Consideration until the First Day of *May*, and then the *Still-yard* Men receiv'd their Answer, which was to confirm the former Judgment of the Council, as is express'd in the Journals of *Edward VI.* So now the *Merchant-Adventurers* having Steam'd the Tide against the foreign Interest, goes chearfully on in the Management of the Cloth Trade. And in *October* the Third following, it is thus express'd by the Hand-writing of *Edward VI.* Because I had a Pay of Forty Eight Thousand Pounds. to be paid in *December*, and had as yet but Fourteen Thousand Pounds beyond Sea to pay it withal, the Merchants did give me a Loan of Forty Thousand Pounds to be paid by them the last

of *December*, and to be repaid again by me the last of *March*. The Way of Levying the Loan of the Cloths was after the Rate of Twenty Shillings a Cloth, for they carried off at this Shipping, Forty Thousand Broad-Cloths. This Grant was confirm'd the Fourth Day of this Month, by a Company assembled of Three Hundred *Merchant-Adventurers*.

An excellent Law was at this Time made upon great Consideration, for the truer Making of our Woollen-Manufactures, which were miserably debas'd under the Management of these Merchants of the *Still-yard*, as appears by a Law made in the Year 1550, in which Law it was Enacted, That the Letter *E* Crown'd should be Wove in every Broad-Cloth to shew the Reformation, in which they were so much mistaken, that the Letter *E* Crown'd, was forbid to be made for Two Years to desipher bad Cloth, in this Law which was made Two Years after.

The next Thing that came under Consideration in Trade at this Time, was the buying of Wool, in which Case a Law was made in the greatest Doubt, that I think ever happen'd
to

to our Law-makers, all Persons were prohibited from buying of Wool, unless they made it into Yarn, Cloth, or some sort of Manufactory; but in this Law there was this Proviso.

Provided always, and be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall, and may be lawful to the King our Sovereign Lord, by his Proclamation at any time hereafter to be made and set forth, to repeal this Statute: Notwithstanding which it remain'd in Force Seventy Years, and then repeal'd upon no good Grounds.

The Manufacturing Part of our Wool was next consider'd, and here a Law was made, That no Person shall Weave or make any broad Woollen-Cloth, unless he had been an Apprentice for Seven Years, or exercised the Trade so long.

This Law was complain'd of, the first Year of Queen *Mary*, and some Dispensation given to the City of *Worcester*, but in the Fourth and Fifth Year of *Philip* and *Mary*, the same Law was made a-new: And a Law of this Kind would be of great Service to our Cloathing-Trade at present, to commence at some Distance
of

of Time from the Making, and to have no Retrospect.

The Bishop of *Salisbury* tells us in his Abridgment of his History of the Reformation, That a great Design was settled this Year, that prov'd to be the Foundation of all that Wealth and Trade that has since that Time flourish'd so much in this Nation, which was the Establishment of our Merchandise in the Hands of our *English* Subjects. But in the very next Page he tells us, That a great Design was proposed after this was settled, which was to open Two free Mart-Towns in *England*, and to give them such Priviledges as the free Towns in *Germany* had, and by that to draw the Trade to *England*, viz. *Southampton* and *Hull*, which fell with the King's Life. This seems to be blowing Hot and Cold in the same Breath, he might as well have said, That after the superstitious Altars had been pull'd down, that a Design was forming to set them up again.

The Reverend Bishop likewise takes Notice of a Law that was at this Time made to put a Stop to all Usury, Repealing a Law made in the 37 Year of *Henry VIII.* That no Person

son should take above Twenty *per Cent.* Interest, in which there is this small Mistake; by that Law Interest of Money was limited to Ten *per Cent.*

But I can't but admire how he should omit in his copious History, that part of the Reformation which at this Time was likewise perform'd, which tended so much to the Reformation of Mens lives, without the least Observation, being the principal part of Religion, when those Times and ours in this Particular was so much alike. *Anno Quinto & Sexto, Edward VI. Cap. 25.*

Forasmuch as intolerable Hurts and Troubles in the Common-wealth of this Realm, daily do grow and increase through such Abuses and Disorders, as are had and used in common Ale-Houses, and other Houses called Tipling-Houses;— to Remedy this, a Power was given to Two Justices of Peace, to remove, discharge and put away common selling of Ale and Beer, where they shall think meet and convenient; and, doubtless by these Means, those intolerable Hurts and Troubles to the Common-wealth were at that Time redress'd, Drunkenness,

enness being the inlet to many other Vices. All Ale-House-keepers in this Law were bound by a Recognizance, and the Justices of the Peace likewise limited to take but Twelve Pence for this Recognizance, as if a Danger was at that Time foreseen, That if more Money was given, that it might be a means to Encourage the more Ale-Houses, and how we are fallen from this Rule, deserves a Consideration; The Shilling at that Time being the same with ours. I believe there were never so many Tipling-Houses in *England* as at this Time.

Anno Septimo Edward VI. Cap. 5. For the avoiding many Inconveniencies, much evil rule and common resort of misruled Persons, used and frequented in many Taverns of late, newly set up in very great Numbers in back-Lanes, Corners and suspicious Places within the City of *London*, &c.

The Reverend Bishop must be deep in Study if he has not observ'd this to be a true Copy of our Case in his Walks thro' the Streets, and the Practice of those Houses he has been particularly inform'd of. To prevent this common Resort, the number of Taverns were reduc'd to Forty

ty in the City of *London*, and other Cities in Proportion, and the Price of Wine limited to Eight Pence per Gallon at most, and no Wine to be Sold in private Houses.

A singular part of Reformation. This which reduc'd Thousands of Women to the Spinning-Wheel, to the Encouragement of our own Products, and Discouragement of the Importation of Wine, &c. *What peace Jehu, so long as the Whoredoms of Jezebel remain.*

An impartial Sword of Reformation was at this Time drawn, which ruffled with their Habits too, spar'd neither *Aggagite* nor *Amalakite*. *Anno Primo Phillip and Mary, Cap. 2.* Whosoever shall wear Silk in, or upon his Hat, Bonnet, Girdle, Scabbard, Hose, Shooes, Spur-leathers, shall be Three Months imprison'd, and Forfeit 10 *l.* except *Mayors, Aldermen, &c.* If any Person knowing his Servant to Offend, do not put him out of his Service within Fourteen Days, or do retain him again, he shall Forfeit 100 *l.* The Subject of Pride has been tenderly handled by our Pulpits these late Years. *Wo unto thee Corazin! Wo unto thee Bethsaida!* Was the Copy left. Instead

Instead of which florid Discourses, sowing Pillows to Mens Arm-holes. We seem to be partial in our Reformation, in reading a *Proclamation* against Swearing, whilst Drunkenness, Whoredom and Pride pass undisturbed; this like pruning of the Branches, and soiling the Root.

There is so much Policy used in the Government of our Fashions by Persons concern'd in Interest at Home, and in foreign Parts by Bribery, Presents, &c. to those that give the Example, that it is a hard Matter for a State to be secure in this Particular; and we here see, That the Government was forc'd to make use of a Law. There is no withstanding the Force of Custom, to be singular is thought ridiculous; and there is so much Magick in the nimble current of Fashions, that it's impossible to be withstood by a Feminine Power.

The King of *France's* Interest is so great in the Consumption of his *Alamode* and *Lustring* Silks in *England*, and of such impoverishing Consequence to us: His establish'd Fabrick at *Lyons* being so Commodious to procure the *Italian-Silk*, which is
the

the only Silk that these *Alamodes* and *Lustrings* can be made with, and of such a Nature, that they can be clandestinely Imported as we see, notwithstanding the utmost Care to prevent it; that if Ten Thousand *Lewis.d'Ores* per Ann. was expended in *England* to promote this Consumption; it would very well answer its End, and the Quantity of this Commodity that is thus contriv'd upon our Womens Backs, would be an incredulous Relation to Posterity. There is drawn at this Time out of *England* above Five Hundred Thousand Pounds per Annum in Specie, that is remitted by Bills to such Places as the King of *France's* Occasions require it for his Armies Abroad; and sent hence in Commodities to *Leghorn* to satisfie the *Italians* for their Silk, which will never be discontinu'd but by the Revival of this Law: Thousands of Women in *England* by the Largeness of their Hoods now in Fashion, the vast quantity of Silk in their Furbelow-Scarfs, a third Part advanc'd in Price, are led into a perfect Captivity, (this Expence to keep pace with the Fashions, exceeding their Wages (tho' very high) and fair Subsistence, and forc'd

forc'd upon unfair Practices ; their Hair which was given for an Ornament Sold, and many other unlawful Shifts, who I am well assured, would be very glad to be releas'd and made easie by other Habits, were it the Fashion, which would be a very great Improvement to our own Manufactures.

This Law seems to aim particularly at distinction in Habits, which is reasonable according to *Solomon*, who tells us, *That soft Raiment is to be found in Kings Houses* ; by which Rule, most of our Milliners and Silk Mens Wives should be Queens ; and whilst my Lady and *Abigale* are habited alike, the Master by Candle-Light may be easily led into a Mistake, by which Means this monster Pride has made a further Entrenchment ; how can the Parson vigorously reprove this Vice, when his own Wife is the Example.

Solomon compares a vertuous Woman to the Merchant's Ship ; never were any Women more alike than ours in Flag and Sail, but his Wisdom would now fail him in distinguishing the Harlot by her Attire ; a little defective I doubt in the Use
of

of the Spindle and Distaff in making ready the Commodities that should Freight out our Ships, to bring home our Treasure from abroad, as is plainly hinted by the Comparison. Many of our nice Ladies being led into a sort of Superstition in being become like the *Psalmist's* Idols, *That had Hands but handled not.*

Being still within the Compass of the History of the Reformation, I can't but mention one excellent Law that was made to prevent these growing Evils, *Anno Quinto, Eliz. cap. 6.*

Whosoever shall sell or deliver to any Person, having not in Possession, Lands or Fees, to the clear Yearly Value of Three Thousand Pounds, any foreign Wares, not first grown or first wrought within the Queen's Dominions, appertaining to the Cloathing or Adorning of the Body; for which Wares or the Workmanship thereof, the Seller shall not have received the whole Money or Satisfaction in Hand, or within Eight and Twenty Days after the Making or Delivery thereof, the Seller, Maker, &c. shall be without Remedy by Order of any Law, Custom or Decree to recover any Recompence for such Wares, or the

E Work-

Workmanship thereof, whatsoever Assurance he shall have by Bond, Surety, Promise or Pawn of the Party, or any other; and all Assurances and Bonds shall be void. The Reviving of this Law would be of excellent Service to the Trade of *Great Britain* at this Time. A Credit given with foreign Wares, is what is chiefly aim'd at herein, which has been brought on since foreign Merchants have made themselves Principals in the Linnens, Spicery, &c. which are sold in *England*. Credit is consider'd here according to our Interest of Money, which is Six *per Cent*. when Money in foreign Parts has been procur'd at Three. Hereby all our Retailing Trades are advanc'd to too great a Number; and it's lamentable to consider the present State of our Trade in Point of Bankrupts. This Credit taken from the Merchant is extended to the Consumer, and hereby *Michalmas* Rent is eat up before *Lady-day*.

By this long Credit which is given with all our foreign Commodities, in which there is an extraordinary Profit to the Seller; and that Credit which is extorted from the Manufacturers, which in few Years hath less'n'd

sen'd the Cloathing Stock above Four Hundred Thousand Pounds, by bad Debts. The true Interest of Great Britain is grounded, as it were, between the upper and nether Millstone. From the First we have too great a Number of Retailers of all Commodities, and Pen-men, and the Number of our Manufacturers lessen'd, who are the only People that bring a Profit to a Nation. And in the Latter, in which the Cloathier by lending out his Cloth is forc'd to borrow his Wool and many other Commodities which are put upon the Work-people, instead of Money, with many other Inconveniencies, Payment of Rents in due time is hereby much discourag'd.

We exceed any other Part of the World in the Number of our Tippling-Houses, Taverns and Brandy-Shops, and in the Excess of our Apparel in the middle and lower Sort of People, which tend to the Debauching of our Lives. And these Practices are shelter'd under many specious Pretences, as the Circulation of Trade, the Encrease of Her Majesty's Custom, the Employment of our Poor, &c. which I think ought to be unmask'd by our Pulpits. And if

no good Bills, (to redress these Grievances) do spring up from this reverend Branch of our legislative Power, ἡ δὲ δέσποινις ἡμῶν, a dead Weight indeed.

When King Phillip came to the Crown, the *Hans* Towns made their Application again, and were seconded by the Endeavours of King Phillip, notwithstanding which, they could never obtain their Priviledges; which was an evident Demonstration, that it was against the Interest of *England*. The *Dutch* Historian takes notice of this Particular, and acknowledgeth that the Priviledges were at this Time taken from the *Hans* Towns; but tell us, That upon their granting the like Priviledges to English Merchants in Germany, they might have had them again, which they refused, insisting upon their Grants, which had been continu'd them Fourteen succeeding Reigns; which Account is right from Henry III. to Edward VI. and their many signal Services, *Tutoni corum*, which no way appears to me by the aforesaid Account of this Matter. And in this Second Application the Matter is more doubtful; he tells us farther, That the English began more
and

and more to encroach upon the Privileges of the Hans Towns in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, which was by the Encouragement of Her Russia Trade; by which it's plain, that the best Way to preserve Friendship and good Neighbourhood, is the exact keeping of our Mounds.

In this Reign *Callis* was lost, which for a long Time had been the grand Mart for our English Wool, which was thought to shorten the Days of Queen Mary, who was succeeded by her Sister Queen Elizabeth, who was true Starling, entirely English. She wrapt her self up in her Golden-fleece, and resolv'd to be *Semper Eadem*; She built upon the good Foundation laid by her Brother King Edward VI. and studied the Imployment of her own People. The Lord Clarindon tells us, That she endeavour'd by all means to draw over greater Numbers of foreign Manufacturers, by enlarging their Priviledges in all Places, where for the Conveniency of their Trades they chose to reside, (true Policy) and granted them Churches in Norwich, Canterbury and other Parts of the Kingdom, as well as London; whereby the Wealth of those Places were marvelously en-

creas'd, and hereby the Loss of *Callis* was abundantly made good, in the working up of that Wool in *England*, which for many Years had been sold there.

In the first Year of her Reign, she reviv'd the excellent Law made in the Third Year of *Henry VII.* That no Person, *Denizen* or *Stranger*, do take upon him to enter any manner of Goods, coming in or going out, in the Name or Names of any other Person or Persons, than the very true Owner or Owners of the Goods, upon forfeiture of the Goods. And at this Time, *Alien's Duties* was call'd, *The antient Revenues of the Crowns.* In the next Place, she made an Effectual Law to preserve the Imployment of our Navigation, by obliging all Persons that Ship'd any Goods upon foreign Bottoms to pay *Alien's Duties.* And in this Law she limited the *Merchant-Adventurers* of *England* to Two Ship-pings a Year, which was continu'd upon the Tenth of *March* and the Tenth of *September*, very proper Seasons to avoid the Dangers of the Sea: And hereby a Quantity of Goods was Ship'd off for Six Months, and Returns brought back for the like Time, in a regular and Well-govern'd Trade.

Our

Our present Misfortunes in our Losses at Sea, do evidently accrew from our want of Regulation and Government in Trade: Was there a fix'd Time to make ready Quantities of Goods, and our Subjects encourag'd to do it at proper Seasons, who, I dare undertake are very able and willing, sufficient Convoys might be easily had to secure our Trade to *Hamburg, Flanders and Holland, Danzick and Russia*, to *Cales, Bilboa and Lisborn*, which are the only Trades that our Necessities seem to require. The longest dark Nights seems to be our best Convoy through the *Straights*, whilst a Cloth Cloak or Coat will do better than a *Camblet*; and the *Persian Silk*, which is the only advantageous Silk to *England*, may be procur'd by way of *Russia*, or by way of the *Danube*, or the *East-Indies*.

The Trading in *Gallies* was found so inconvenient in former Times, that it was restrain'd by a Law: And our Confusion in Trade makes a Confusion in our Admiralty, and an Advantage to *France*. Was his Advantages hereby cut off, and the Consumption of his *Alamodes* and *Lustrings* prevented in *England*, it would affect him more

than Two Shillings in the Pound upon Land, and we should hereby sink his Interest in a Peace as well as in a War: In this Reign the Exorbitant Power of *Spain* was the same as the Exorbitant Power of *France* has been to us; which by the incomparable Staple of our Golden Fleece, was fix'd within its due Bounds, and has continu'd so to this very Day, as was sooner apprehended by this Excellent Queen, than by the States of *Holland*, who by their Ambassadors vigorously press'd to a continuance of the Wars, and were told, That She apprehended, that the Thoughts of being Universal Monarch was laid aside by the *Spaniard*, and the Event shew'd, that She was in the Right. The *West-Indies* was at this Time in the *Spaniard's* Hands, yet the Virtue of the Golden Fleece drew as much Silver into *England*, as the Nation had Occasion of; and always will do (if we are not wanting to our selves) in spite of all Opposition. *France* is so far from furnishing *Spain* with Wollen Goods, that we had a Company of *English Merchants* in the Reign of King *James the First* that furnish'd *France* with that Commodity; and they

they have not half enough of their own Growth to serve their own Nation.

In the Second Year of Her Reign, the *Charter* of the *Merchant-Adventurers* was confirm'd, and in the Sixth Year she gave them the Title of *Merchant-Adventurers of England*, and Authoriz'd them to Exercise their Government in any part of the Kingdom, and added *Germany* to their *Charter*, with as ample Power to Exercise their Trades in those Parts, as they had formerly done in the *Low-Countries*. The Cloth-Trade was hereby encreased to Eighty Thousand Cloths a Year, and the Value of Fifty Thousand in Cotton and Kersies, reckoning Three Cottons to one Cloth, which was Exported *communibus Annis*; by this Company, as Sir *Walter Rawleigh* gives the Account, and a wonderful Advance was hereby made in the Riches and Value of our Lands for above Two Hundred Years, and down to the Reign of *Phillip* and *Mary*, a Liberty was given to Transport Corn, when the Quarter of Wheat was sold at Six Shillings Eight Pence; Rye at Four Shillings, and Barley at Three: The
Price

Price of Wheat in the middle of this Reign, was thought to be moderate at Five Shillings the Bushel; and Wool that was Sold in the Reign of *Henry VI.* at One Shilling and Six Pence, was now worth Fourteen Shillings. At the latter End of this Reign, an *East-India* Trade was set on Foot, which soon affected some more beneficial Trades, as we are inform'd by *Gerard de Malin*. The Kingdom was left in a very flourishing Condition to King *James I.* who confirm'd the Charter of the *Merchant-Adventurers* of *England*, but as he came from Abroad, he seem'd to have too much of a foreign Allay. The Law made in the First Year of *Phillip* and *Mary*, to Prohibit the wear of Silks was Repeal'd, and all Laws relating to Apparel; but that which gave the fatal Stroke to the Commerce of *England*, was the Subsidy granted to the King out of Wool Exported. We your said poor Commons by the Advice, Assent and Authority aforesaid, do Give and Grant unto you our said Leige, Lord our Sovereign, for the Causes aforesaid, another Subsidy; That is to say, of every Merchant-born Denizen, of, and for every Sack of Wool,

Thirty

Thirty Three Shillings Four Pence; and of, and for every Two Hundred and Forty Woollen-fells, Thirty Three Shillings and Four Pence, and of, and for every Last of Hides and Backs, Three Pounds Six Shillings and Eight Pence, and so after the same Rate, for every less or greater Quantity: And of every Merchant-stranger, not born Denizen, for every Sack of Wool, Three Pounds Six Shillings Eight Pence; and of, and for every Two Hundred and Forty Wool-fells, Three Pounds Six Shillings Eight Pence; and of, and for every Last of Hides, and Backs, Three Pounds Thirteen Shillings Eight Pence, and so of every the said Wools and Wool-fells, Hides and Backs, and every of them after the Rate, to have, take and enjoy, and receive the Subsidies aforesaid, and every of them, and every Part and Parcel of them to Your Highness; from the Eighteenth Day of March last past, during your Life Natural.

This Grant laid the Foundation of our Civil Wars, and the Train of Misfortunes which hath attended this Kingdom to this very Day. France made use of that fair Opportunity to fix his Interest with King Charles II. in his Exile, which increas'd

creas'd his Exorbitant Power; and the *Jesuits* by Establishment of the *Romish* Religion in King *James II.* This without Peradventure, was done in Favour of *Scotland*; but the *Hollanders* soon got the greatest Benefit in advancing their Trade; and indeed, it prov'd the very Establishment of *Holland*, the great Contest between them and *Spain* happening at this Time, which they had hardly Weather'd, had it not been by this Assistance of our Wool.

I don't find any Limitation in Place or Quantity in the Shipping of this Wool, so that for one Pack that was Ship'd which paid a Duty, possibly two might be Ship'd that paid none.

This Exportation of Wool soon made a great Declension in Trade, and from thence a great Uneasiness; the flourishing Trade of Queen *Elizabeth* being fresh in Memory, many of our Manufacturers being hereby forc'd to seek their Livelihood in foreign Countries, or starve at Home; which appear'd so Visible in the Eleventh Year of this Reign, that the Earl of *Middlesex*, the then *Lord Treasurer* of *England*, prevail'd with the

the Honourable Privy Council, to take a Ballance of the Trade of the Nation in Merchandises Imported and Exported, from *Christmas, Anno 1612, to Christmas 1613*. At which Time by the Account than made up the Exportations, amounted to the Sum of Two Millions, Four Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand, Four Hundred Thirty Five Pounds, Seven Shillings Ten Pence; and the Imported to Two Millions, One Hundred Forty One Thousand, One Hundred Fifty One Pounds Ten Shillings; they took the Value of the Customs, and Multiplied them by Twenty: How near they were to the Mark aim'd at hereby I can't Judge. In the Year 1622. A little Tract of Trade was Wrote by one *Misenden* a Merchant, that liv'd at *Hackney*; and some Objections was made to his Book by one *Gerard de Malin*, which he Answer'd again in Print in the Year 1623. And by the Accounts of Trade treated on by these Two Merchants, it was in a very low Condition: *Misenden* made a Ballance as the *Lord Treasurer* had done before; and at this Time by the same Rule the Imports amounted to Two Millions, Six Hundred

dred and Nineteen Thousand, Three Hundred and Fifteen Pounds; and the Exports but to Two Millions, Three Hundred and Twenty Thousand, Four Hundred Thirty Six Pounds Twelve Shillings Ten Pence.

He tells in the Introduction of his Book, That Croetius King of Lidia, had a Son Born Dumb, and his Country being Invaded, and the King himself in eminent Danger of being kill'd by a Persian, his Son spake which never spake before, and cried out *O homo ne perimas Patrem!*

When I beheld the former flourishing Trade of ours, to be threatned with as many eminent as inminent Dangers, and the very Life thereof to be a Bleeding; whilst I was musing the Fire kindled, and at last I spake with my Pen as I never spake before. *O homines ne perimatis Patrem! O Men kill not the Kingdom!* Or, had I still been silent, and were all Men mute, surely the Cause it self would call for Relief, or the Stones would cry to the Timber, the Ships to the Seas, the Seas to the Shores, one Deep to another Deep, because it is not the Complaint of a common Man, but of a Kingdom; the Poor starve in our Streets for want of Labour: These are his Words.

The

The King I find at this Time appointed a special *Committee*, collected like a *Court-Parliament*, from all Parts of the Kingdom, but nothing was ever Touch'd upon to stop the Exportation of Wool; the Revenues of the Crown was too tender a Point to be meddled with, when there was no better an Understanding between the Court and the People, no Parliament having sat from the Seventh Year of this Reign to the Twenty First. The *Hollanders* and others that were in the Possession of this Profit, had doubtless their Agents in *England* to apply with the Guilt.

Sir *Walter Rawleigh* in his Observations on Trade, at this Time offer'd to the King, takes notice of the prodigious Encrease of Trade in the *Netherlands*, occasion'd by our Products. And to turn the Stream and Riches arising by your Majesty's native Commodities into the natural Channel, from whence it hath been a long Time diverted, he recommended a State-Merchant. In many other Accounts that I have seen, the Trade of *England* was in a very low Condition, which could not be otherwise from this Practice; and to encrease the
the

the Misfortunes, some Disturbances was at this Time given upon the Account of Religion. The *Flemmings* that came into *England* in the Reign of *Edward VI.* and *Queen Elizabeth*, were of the *Calvinist* Perswasion, and had their Churches by the favour of *Queen Elizabeth*; and all Matters were carried on through her whole Reign in great Tranquility, the Earl of *Leicester* being their particular Friend, she never permitting any Dispute upon this Account. At this Time the King had a Hearing between the differing Parties in Religion; and so slender a Defence was made by the Dissenters, that the King by some Words of his, gave Encouragement to the Arch-Bishop *Banckcroft*, and Bishop *Ken*, the then Bishop of *Normich*, to use some Force in this Case, which made some of the *Flemmings* go back into their own Country, to the great Prejudice of *England*, as my Lord *Clarindon* observes, in instructing them in the making of our *Kersies*. The ways of raising Money by Monopolies Partents, &c. was likewise a convincing Proof of the ill State of the Kingdom, which was in the Year 1625 left in this Condition,

to

to his Son King *Charles I.* a Prince of a pious Disposition, as was his Father: Policy and Religion (we are told) do as well together, as they do ill asunder; as Policy without Religion is too Subtile to be Good, so Religion without Policy is too Simple to be Safe. He adheard to his Father's Counsels. A Parliament sat in the first Year of his Reign, and in the Third Year, and in the Sixteenth, which brought on the *Civil Wars* in *England*, in which the Parliament at the first Time had underhand Encouragement from the States of *Holland*, as the Lord *Clarindon* observes; but he tells us farther, That when they found that the Commonwealth in *England* began to mind their Interest in Trade, the Note was soon chang'd, and a sudden Attempt made upon our Fleet at Sea, which led into a War, in which they had good Recompence for their bold Attempt. The Parliament made an Ordinance to support the Merchant-Adventurers of *England*, and came to this Resolution in a full Debate of Trade, That the *Woollen-Manufacture* of this Kingdom could not be issued out to the Benefit of the Nation, but by Rule and Government in Trade. And

F

Cliver

Oliver Cromwel put out a Proclamation to Support the Charter of the aforesaid Merchants. Our *East-India* Trade was at this time sunk, but never a more flourishing Time of Trade was known in *England*, in a full Imployment of our Manufacturers, which was the chief Support of *Oliver* in his Slippery Station. The Lord *Clarindon* farther observes, *That the King's Affairs in the Civil Wars were most unsuccessful in our chiefest Places of Manufacture; and that the Parliament reposed great Confidence, and gave Commissions to some Clothiers; which was very likely, these being the greatest Sufferers by the Loss of Trade, and the flourishing Time of Queen Elizabeth well in Memory, which brings me to the Restoration of King Charles II.* And as I think the Case was very plain, that the Exportation of our Wool and Neglect of our Commerce was the Occasion of these dismal Calamities; my Task will not be hard to shew how the exorbitant Power of *France* sprung up by his Advantages obtain'd in *England*, in this voluptuous Reign.

The Book of Rates was in the First Place settled in favour of *France*
in

in the Custom of Linnens, the fine Linnens of *Flanders* were charg'd at Three Pence per Ell Custom, and the fine Dowlas of *France*, at One Half-penny per Ell, which continu'd the whole Reign.

A good Law was at this Time made to prevent the Exportation of our Wool; but in this Law a Clause was inserted, To give a Liberty to export Three Thousand, Three Hundred Tods of Unkemb'd Wool to the Islands of *Jersey* and *Garnsey*, which prov'd to the Advantage of *France* in their *Spanish* Trade; these Islands being Peopled with *French* for the most Part, made a wonderful Advance in the Stocking Trade, which is a principal Part of Merchandise into *Spain* and the *West-Indies*, and evidently sunk the Stocking Trade in *Somersetshire*, and many other Parts of *England*. And these Islands being so Commodious to *France*, they had the greatest Benefit of their Labour.

In Two Years after this, it was made Felony to all Persons that should be any way Aiding or Assisting in the Exportation of Wool, without any other Advantage to the Informer, which prov'd a full Tolleration;

tion; no One ever suffering upon the Act. And by a very good Account that I have seen, which was sent over by an *English* Merchant in this Reign, Thirty Two Thousand Packs of *English* Kemb'd Wool, for the most Part, was receiv'd in Three Ports in *France*, the Manufacture of which amounted to a large Sum *per Annum*. At this Time the *Merchant-Adventurers* of *England* were invaded in their Rights and Priviledges, and their Trade thrown open to *Holland* and *Flanders*, by which some *English* Merchants not free of that Company made some Benefit by false Goods for a short Time; but were soon routed out by the *Hollanders*, which is well in Memory.

The next Advantage that they gain'd, was the Taking off the *Alien's* Duties, which was called in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, *The anti-ent Revenue of the Crown*. All Fashions now began to alter in Favour of *France*, the laudable Wear of Hats were now turn'd into Hoods made of *French* Silk; and hereby every Servant Maid in *England* is become a standing Revenue to the King of *France* by One Third of her Wages, and many Hats

Hats for the Men imported from *France*.
The Trade between *France* and *Italy*
was hereby so semented, *France* tak-
ing off their Silk, and giving them
Woollen-Goods, adapted to their
Use made with our Wool, that a
high Duty was laid upon all *English*
Cloth by the Duke of *Savoy*, which
was taken off but few Years since.
And such Improvement made in
France with our Wool, that so high
a Duty was laid upon our Cloth, that
it made in effect a Prohibition, which
was insensibly past over with us by
the Power of *Medea's* Charms; and
all Fashions govern'd by this Goddess,
which advanc'd the Commerce of
France, we came in a manner to be
wholly served with their Linnens;
Claret flow'd in abundance, and *Brandy*
was our chiefest *Cordial*, and the *Money*
arising from these Commodities was
invested in *Colchester* Bays, and other
Drapery, and sent to *Spain*, to make
up a compleat Sortment of Goods to
be join'd with their Linnens for the
Spanish West-Indies, and return'd into
France in Pieces of Eight; *Spanish Wool*,
Iron and *Cocheneal*, &c. which for
many Years was a very profitable
Branch of Commerce, and to our

costly Experience we have found, that all these Advantages were highly improv'd by the Policies of *France*, otherwise he could never have continued his Wars to this Time. The Advantages which he attain'd out of *England* in the whole Course of his Traffick would make a vast Sum per Annum, beyond my Capacity to ascertain; equal indeed to his exorbitant Power.

When King *James II.* came to the Crown, he put out a *Proclamation* to prevent the Exportation of our Wool, and took that effectual Care to have his Orders executed in *Kent* and *Sussex*, which were the chiefest Places of its Exportation into *France*, that the *French* Ambassador at our Court, complain'd, That his Master's Fisher-Boats were disturb'd upon our Coasts; notwithstanding which, it was so far pursued, that it drew over a vast Number of *French* into *England*, that could not Subsist in *France* without our Wool, and we had in *England* a very flourishing Trade during this Reign.

At the Revolution a Bill was brought into our *Convention-Parliament* to prevent the Exportation of Wool

Wool in its Title, by appointing Commissioners to put the Laws in Execution, if they would do it at their own Charge, whilst in many Particulars it gave a direct Encouragement to its Exportation.

The Islands of *Jersey* and *Garnsey* were now allow'd Three Thousand, Three Hundred Tods more than they had allow'd by the *Statute* of the Twelfth of *Charles II.* which at this Time upon strict Examination, will be found to be work'd up, to promote the *French* and *Spanish West-India Trade*. A Ship as I am inform'd came lately to *Spain* from those Islands with Woollen Goods, I believe upon no *English* Accounts. There was in this Bill as fatal a Clause to the Merchandise and Navigation of *England*, as the Subsidy granted to King *James I.* out of Wool Exported: All our Merchandise to *Holland*, *Flanders* and *Germany* was thrown open, which has extirpated our *English* Factories in those Parts, and totally sunk our Navigation, (the *English* Merchandise and Navigation always Live and Die together) and introduc'd a whole Series of Misfortunes to our British Nation: The

Vogue of a free Trade, a free Trade, lilly Bullero a free Trade, so prevail'd in this heat of Affairs, that it run like a Torrent, and the Case of our Manufacturers prov'd the same, as it happen'd to the Frogs in the Fable, *That pray'd to Jupiter for a New King, and he sent them the Stork.* A Multitude of good Tradesmen have hereby been ruin'd in their Estates, and eat up; and could all their Misfortunes be drawn up into a History, it would be a larger *Folio* than our Books of *Martyrs*; and indeed it is a kind of *Martyrdom*, when a Man's Estate is ruin'd and he become Insolvent, he is *civiliter Mortuus*. *Menhier Dorvill's* Warehouse in *Holland* very much resembled the *Foxes Den*, *vestigia nulla retrorsum*. An immediate Refuge (thro' the Credit of *Blackwell-Hall*) to many that by other Extravagancies were brought into an insolvent Condition: Any Person that would consign Five Hundred Pounds worth of Woollen-Goods to this Ware-House, might have a liberty to draw four hundred Pounds upon the *Exchange* of *London*, and the Bills should be Accepted, which in many Cases fell hard upon the Clothiers. Water-Works were hereby

by carried on to the Advantage of the City of *London*, at Seventy Thousand Pounds Loss upon the Country in the Case of *Soams*, and hereby many a good Penny-worth of Cloth was drawn into this Den. Time would fail me to be particular upon this Head, and the Effect of a free Trade is sufficiently prov'd by the low Price of our Wool.

What *Synon* treacherously suggested to the *Trojans* by restoring his Wooden-Horse, the pretended Image of *Pallas*, to reconcile the Differences that for many Years had continu'd between the *Greeceans* and the *Trojans*, would be effectually obtain'd in appeasing our Divisions and Heats in our Elections, &c. which are chiefly fomented and kept up to support this foreign and private Interest in Trade, by a Re-establishment of our Merchandise and Navigation in the Hands of our own Subjects, which for almost Twenty Years has been wholly invaded by this republican Interest; and our happy Union gives me a View of this great Blessing. In all our former Regulations of Trade, our Power was not strong enough to bring in the remotest Northern Counties

Counties into the strict Interest of the whole; but *Northumberland* and *Cumberland* were always saved by a Proviso. The Favour of Her Majesty's Charter, (to the antientest Company of Merchants in *England*) extended to the utmost Limits of *Great Britain*, would bring in those Counties to the same Rule, and be a great Blessing to our Northern Brethren, as well as to us in an establish'd Branch of the *Merchant-Adventurers* of *Great Britain*.

By the Repeal of the Statute of the Twenty Fifth of King *Charles II.* that took off *Alien's* Duties, and the Statute since made, that took off all Duties from our Woollen-Goods exported, which was only an Advantage to the Consumers of our Goods in foreign Parts; a Fund would be at this Time raised to advance One Hundred Thousand Pounds *per Ann.* for our next Years Occasions, and be a good Expedient to the Recovery of our *English* Merchandise and Navigation which by the first Law was destroy'd.

And thus I have shewn from Instances of Fact, that the Advantages in Trade at first obtain'd by *Edward III.* were

were lost again by the Indulgences given to *Aliens* by *Richard II.* and himself Dethron'd ; that the Riches acquired by *Edward IV.* and *Henry VII.* by the Support of our *English* Merchandise, were soon lost by the Indulgences given to the Merchants of the *Still-yard* by *Henry VIII.* and the *Spaniard* advanc'd to so great Riches, that it occasion'd a great Trouble to Queen *Elizabeth* ; That the Exportation of our Wool by King *James I.* was the Occasion of our *Civil Wars* ; that from our great Neglect in Trade in the Reign of King *Charles II.* sprung up the exorbitant Power of *France* ; and from our Freedom to Foreigners given by our *Convention-Parliament*, the present Loss of our Merchandise and Navigation. And if from these Instances of Fact, I have made any Deductions that are not Genuine and Natural, I shall readily submit to better Judgment.

SOME

were lost again by the Indulgences
 given to Adam by Richard II. and
 Edward III. that the Riches
 acquired by Adam IV. and his
 by VII. by the Support of our Par-
 liament, were soon lost
 by the Indulgences given to the
 adherents of the late King by Hen-
 ry VIII. and the Spanish Ambassadors
 to great Riches, that it occasion'd a
 great Trouble to Queen Elizabeth;
 That the Exportation of our Wool
 by King James I. was the Occasion
 of our Civil Wars; that from our
 great Neglect in Trade in the Re-
 gion of Charles II. sprung up the ex-
 orbitant Power of France; and from
 our Freedom to Foreigners given by
 our Government-Parliament, the pre-
 sent Loss of our Merchandise and
 Navigation. And if from these In-
 dulgences that are not Genuine and
 Natural, I shall readily submit to
 better Judgment.

SOME
CONSIDERATIONS
UPON THE
New Discourse
OF
TRADE.

Quære de novis.

HAVING troubled the World in this kind, from an apprehension to my self, that this Gentleman was imposing upon the Nation a new belief in Trade, as our *Socinians* are in Religion, I thought it farther incumbent upon me to consider the strength of his Arguments, wherein I will proceed with all possible Submission

sion to the greatness of the Author, and brevity in favour of the Reader.

He tells us in the end of his Preface, that he hath expos'd his Conceptions to the publick Censure, with a confidence that they will be received, and honoured with a publick Sanction, and pass into Laws; and thus begins his Book.

The prodigious Increase of the Netherlanders, in their domestick and foreign Trade, Riches and multitude of Shipping, is the Envy of the present, and may be the Wonder of all future Generations.

Quid dignum tanto ferit hic promissor—

He here sets out the Riches of *Holland* in ample and extensive Demonstrations, and backs it on with an addition, in several subsequent Expressions in his Book: They are *Samson's* and *Goliath's* in Trade; Sons of *Anach*, Masters of the Field; like a prevailing Army that scorns to build Castles and Fortresses as we do by our Act of Navigation; and to advance their Glory herein, he tells us, That we are but Dwarfs, and Pigmies in Stocks and Experience, &c. And from this, he very much encourageth the Practice

ance of *Holland* amongst us; to have Merchants in our greatest Counsels of State and War; Law-merchants to decide differences in Trade; the law of Gavelkind, that all Children may have a like Portion, &c. and *Pag. 46*, recommends the throwing open all our Priviledges, to set our Doors wide open to all our Native Commodities, Coals, &c. without the least Duty, destroying the Liberties of Corporations, where Artificers have a greater Priviledge than Strangers: The Statute of the fifth of *Elizabeth*, where an Apprenticeship is a Priviledge, throwing open all Companies that do not Trade in Joint-Stock, and giving free Liberty in all Corporations, leveling all Bounds that our Ancestors set up, who were Soldiers, Hunts-men, and Herds-men, and knew not Trade; which is but a new Thing in *England*, all this to make way for an Act of Naturalization, which seems to be ready drawn, to make us Tenants in Common, in Trade; herein sweetning his Design with these good Effects, that we shall keep the Mansion-House, and have Thirty or Forty Years Purchase for the Grainge; and this is the Design he drives at.

I must confess, considering the remissness of our late Reigns, how we have lain open in our *Spanish Trade*, both in *Flanders*, and *Germany*; and been so kind to make no Difference between an *English Merchant* and a *Dutch*, only the latter living frugally in *Holland*: I am of the Gentleman's Opinion, that they are vastly Rich in Treasure, and are desirous of an Act of Naturalization, to make some Purchases in Land, and the more confirm'd from the many Brokers in the City of *London*, that are zealously solicitous to bring the Matter to bear; of which City, as once of *Rome*, it may be truly said, *Abi, venalis civitas, mox peritura si emptorem invenias*. All run into Commission, *omnia Roma cum pretio*. The Gentleman tells us in his Preface, That were they freed from their French Fears, they would be worse than Taskmasters over us in Trade: Considering their Treasure, I can't blame their Fears, being so near at Hand to the *French*, and all that staggers my Belief in the vastness of their Riches, is the smallness of their quota of Men of War, and their Forces in *Flanders*, which by this Account should be so much more than

than ours : And should I endeavour to conceal our own Poverty, the four Years Votes of Parliament will condemn my Folly, which hath been made up with Petitions to cut off Entails to pay Debts, and raise Portions for younger Children ; considering with my self, the multitudes of Entails that have been cut off, my Melancholy leads me to a Doubt, where there would be buyers, all those being considerable Estates, that would bear the Charge of an Act of Parliament, to part with them, not in the least thinking then of the Bank of *Amsterdam* : But my Inclination still leads me to set out good Husbandry, which will encrease our Flocks to maintain our Privileges, which will make more of his Wool : To put a stop to our extravagant Expence in the *East-India* Commodities, and Flood of Claret ; and we may yet save the Grainge for the eldest Son, which was the Design of his Ancestors, at least secure it from Strangers. To have a Neighbour so near the Mansion-House will be very Incommodious ; and if it fall into the Hands of Aliens, it will be an Aggravation.

The Gentleman, as I apprehend the Matter, hath a Woolf by the Ear in his Argument of our Poverty; he can't well hold it, nor yet dare he loose it; it is very necessary to be argu'd, to introduce his Design upon one Hand, but upon the other, it may be a means to put us upon Enquiry after the true Causes of our Poverty; and that will lead to the *East-India Company*, the warm Nest of Muslings and Callicoes bought with our Bullion; so that in his Preface, having given a true Catalogue of our Losses in Trade in Fifteen Particulars, and then told us, *That he knew a great many more that we have lost*, which he forbears telling, fearing his Porch would be too big; and for other Reasons: In Six Leaves farther, in the same Porch he tells us, *We have now much more Money in England, than we had Twenty Years past*. This, like the Answer of the Oracle, bears a double Construction; but the Way that he would have it understood is very plain, because he fortifies the Belief of it with so many convincing Arguments, which I doubt are a little fallacious too, which I will here give the Reader the trouble to consider.

I. We

1. We give generally now one Third more Money with an Apprentice, than we did Twenty Years past.

There are many Instances of the Truth of this, to *Turkey Merchants*, who give considerable Advantages to their Apprentices Abroad; where in a plentiful Employment, it is in Part made good by the end of their Time; and what the Gentleman observes, *Page 87*, That many Merchants that are Free of no Companies, can have as much Money with Apprentices, as any that are Free of Companies: I humbly conceive is a Mistake. But I think there's a greater Reason which bespeaks the Poverty of the Nation that this comes from, which is the scarcity of good Places for Apprentices; and the *Turkey Merchants* make their Prices according to the Plenty of their Offers, as in all other Affairs.

If Two Thirds of the Merchandise of our Native Commodities be got into the Hands of Aliens, manag'd by Commission, out of this here is little room for Apprentices, and less Incouragement: If there were Three Hundred Merchant-Adventurers that met together, the whole Society was much greater, where now we have

scarce Ten that deal in Cloth; this must needs make an Odds in this Affair, whilst the younger Sons of our Gentry of *England* are still growing up, and then the Management of the *East-India* Trade is too Secret to be taught to an Apprentice, tho' they have carried off too many young Men, to manage their Affairs in that hot Climate, that never came back.

2. We Ship off one Third Part more of the Manufactures, than we did Twenty Years past, which is a Cause, as well as a Proof, of our Increase of Money.

The Gentleman tells us, *Page 128*, That through the Plenty of our Wool carried in Holland, it is as Cheap there within a small Matter, as in *England*. And if our Manufactures are Ship'd off in great Plenty, upon the Account, of Foreigners, which was formerly wholly upon *English* Mens Accounts, I think this bespeaks our Poverty, but I am sure it's a Mistake in the General.

3. Houses new Built in *London*, yield Twice the Rent as they did before the Fire.

The Truth of this is only secur'd by the Taverns and Coffee-houses; which

which seems to me by the great Resort, to have a greater tendency to Poverty than Riches.

4. The speedy and costly Buildings of *London* is a convincing, and to Strangers an amazing Argument of the Plenty, and late Increase of Money in *England*.

The Gentleman I am sure in this Particular, will be so Ingenious to own his Mistake, as to the strength of his Argument, he proves, that we have now much more Money in *England* than we had Twenty Years past, and brings the fine Houses of *London* that were built Five and Twenty, and Eight and Twenty Years past to prove it; but I will take no Advantage of the Mistake.

As to the speed, I think they made more haste than good speed; for near the *Exchange*, there lately fell down a considerable House into the Street.

The Cost and Glory of Brick Buildings was the Scorn of former Times; Come let us pull down our Bricks, and Build with hewn Stone, and he that stands amaz'd at the Charge, must be a Stranger indeed to the Way of doing it.

5. We have now more than double the Quantity of Merchants Shipping, we had Twenty Years past.

But it may be a little doubted, that they are wanting in Quality, whilst they are shipping off Alien's Goods.

6. The Course of our Trade, from the increase of our Money, is strangely alter'd within these twenty Years, most Payments from Merchants and Shopkeepers being made with ready Money, whereas formerly the Course of our general Trade run at Three, Six, Nine, Twelve and Eighteen Months Time: I think this is laid so wide, that it is impossible to be reconcil'd; and I shall make a difference between the Preface and the Book. Page 7 and 8, in the first Book, in recommending the transferring Bill of Debt from one Man to another, to prove the Need of it, he tells us, *That having Sold our Goods, it is Six, Nine and Twelve Months Time before the Money can be recover'd; and that if it is considerable, it is a good Man's Work all the Year to follow Vintners and Shopkeepers for Money.* And I think the East-India Company to Advance ready Money for Goods, allows Six Months Discount

count to be equal with other Trades; so that to my own Knowledge, nothing but inverting the Words can set this right. And since the last bequeath of a Will by Law, shall take Place of the former, when the same Thing is given Twice, the Book in this Case must likewise take Place of the Preface, tho' we are poorer by it.

Page 11. He goes on in the Proof of the increase of our Riches, from a longer time; and if this be doubted, let us ask the Aged, whether Five Hundred Pounds Portion with a Daughter, Sixty Years past, was not esteem'd more than Two Thousand Pounds now; and if there are not more Men upon the Exchange worth Ten Thousand Pounds, than were then worth One Thousand Pounds.

That there is a greater Plenty of Money in England than there was Sixty Years past, is not to be doubted, and we may have more Money than we had Twenty Years past, and yet compar'd with the Dutch, may be Poor; for the Increase of the New Drapery hath brought home far greater quantities of Treasure these late Years from the West-Indies than we had Thirty Years past.

But I am fully satisfied, that our late great Portions, and prodigious Estates got by some particular Men, is no Proof of our Riches in the General; and that, where there is one small Portion given now, there was Ten given Forty Years past; and twice as many Merchants worth Two or Three Thousand Pounds, than we have now; and if these great Portions have swallow'd up the small, we may be poorer in the General, tho' Rich in Particulars.

Page 12. We have now One Hundred Coaches for One we had formerly, which is a convincing Argument of Riches. I think I can ballance this Argument. About Twenty or Thirty Years past you could scarce meet a Man in the City, but had a Knot of Ribbons upon his Shoulder, which was an undeniable Argument of an Excrease of Riches, and an Overplus of Money in the Pocket; and now you shall scarce see One Man in a Thousand that hath any Ribbon upon his Coat, which I think as plainly Argues our Poverty. One Hundred to One, I must confess is a little large. Whilst the Multitude in London make an Admiration, the Rare-

Rareness of a Coach in the Country doth the same. In the Journals of Edward VI. I find it thus advis'd by him, *That after the Parliament was up, except some few that should wait upon him, that all the Rest of the Nobility should go into the Country, and see the Laws put in Execution and Justice done.* Whose good and great Example would have a great Influence towards a regular Nation.

The Fashion of Coach-keeping sprung up about Forty Years past, when the old Course of Trade was alter'd, that maintain'd a Credit and Goodness in our Native Commodities; when Interlopers got in, and by false over-strain'd Goods under the Shelter of our old Reputation, got a little extraordinary Profit upon a sudden; Bodice-makers and Glovers turn'd Merchants in our Commonwealth-Government; and Cloth-drawers soon became our Capital Merchants by Commission; and upstart Pride being always most aspiring (according to our Proverb) this led into Coaches.

Our old substantial Merchants being laid up in their Winter-quarters, their Stocks gave a Foundation

tion to Bankers and Scriveners. Our new Traders by their extraordinary Profit at first, drove on in Trade answerable to their new Wheels, and soon wanted Money to answer Occasions, by which our Bankers and Scriveners had soon got most Grease to their Wheels, being favour'd by the Necessity of the Court, which a little over-run and carried some of their Masters into the *Mine* and *White-fryars*; which hath unhappily Perplex'd our *Gazettes* with the repeated Summons of the Creditors of *Blackwell*, *Winor* and *Benjamin Hinson*, and a multitude of others. To this sprung up a Coach in the Air from Stock-jobbing, One Hundred Pounds Principal swell'd to Seven: These Horses out-run the Interloper and Banker, and thought it impossible to keep down this swelling Profit. And to make good the Weight of the Gentleman's Reason, up starts the Cloth-factor with his Equipage and Splendor not inferior to the Rest, having brought his Masters the Clothiers to come part of the Way to *London* on Foot, and the Rest in a Waggon; and yet more Show than Substance, I doubt in this Reason.

The Gentleman further pursueth his Point, by telling us, *That there are now more Keys and Wharfs for Landing of Goods in London, in his own Remembrance, by One Third Part*. I am well satisfied in the Truth of this, That the greatest Part of the Trade of *England* is drawn to *London*, and being so, it is no true Argument of our Riches in the General. In *Sir Walter Rawleigh's* Time the Merchants of *Ipswich* were the great Buyers of Cloth, and doubtless many other Places were greater Places of Trade, which are now the more Impoverish'd for want of it, and I think this is a Point that deserves the most serious Consideration. I am not against keeping up the Greatness of the City of *London* as our Metropolitan City, but yet we are equal Subjects of the same Government. I am likewise as well satisfy'd, That there is a Necessity of a Company of Merchants to preserve our own Priviledges; but still, the more Comprehensive the better, and that it is a great Injustice to the Publick, that Companies shall have a Power to restrain the Shipping off our own native Commodities, to those Places that they please.

The

The Strength of our Nation is not in the City of *London*, but its vast Bigness. One of our Misfortunes in the first Place, is being supply'd with People from the Country; it is too much Depopulating, it likewise harbours so many Factions from all Parts, that it will be always uneasy to Monarchy; and if a Sickness should come, it is amazing Consideration.

The Gentleman in the whole Drift of this Design, endeavours to shew, *That the Life of our Trade is from the Government of the Interest of our Money*; this is his *Causa causans*. He tells us, Page 9. *That if Interest of Money was reduc'd with us to Three per Cent. as it is in Holland, it would in a short Time render us as rich and considerable in Trade as they now are.* And to make good his Argument from Experience, he suggests the low Condition of our Nation, before there was any Law to limit Interest, before the Year 1545. that limited it to Ten per Cent. at which Time the Merchant were mean and few; and that afterwards in the Year 1635. within Ten Years after, Interest was brought down to Eight per

per Cent. There were more Merchants to be found upon the *Exchange* worth each One Thousand Pounds and upwards, than were in the former Days, *viz.* before the Years 1600. to be found worth One Hundred Pounds each. I think I am able to prove a Mistake upon the Gentleman in this Particular: In the Year 1553, which was Forty Seven Years before 1600, there met together Three Hundred *Merchant-Adventurers*, and lent King Edward VI. Forty Thousand Pounds, and rais'd the Money by a Leavy of Twenty Shillings a Cloth, for every Cloth that was then Ship'd off, which amounted to Forty Thousand Cloths: Now if you divide these Cloths equally, I think it is One Hundred Twenty Five Cloths each, which were not less worth in those Days than Twelve Hundred and Fifty Pounds, and it can't be reasonably suppos'd that a Merchant should Adventer above half his Estate at One Shipping; so that here visibly appears, Three Hundred Merchants in those Days in the Cloth Trade, worth Two Thousand Pounds and upwards, which was but seven Years after the first Law about Interest of Money.

And

And in those Days when Interest was so rare and not reckon'd Law-ful, it is very strange it should have so great an Effect. This Gentleman's private Interest is so great in the *East-India* Trade (where One Hundred Pounds Principal shall reap the Benefit of Five Hundred Pounds at Interest) that I doubt he is no competent Judge of the publick Interest of the Nation, and no wonder that he Presses so hard to gain the Pass.

I shall not spend Time in a long Discourse upon this Subject, being very much of Opinion with the Honourable Author, That the paying Interest for so much Money in Trade, as we now do, is very prejudicial to the publick Good of the Nation. That where there was One Hundred Pounds in Trade Forty Years past at Interest, there is now One Thousand, as may be fairly grounded upon the late Growth of our Bankers and Scriveners. And I think it may be said of Interest, as was well said of Pleasure, *commendat rarior usus*: But the Attempt that was made to put a Stop to it by a Law, *in quinto & sexto Edwardi VI. Cap. 20.* prov'd to be preja-

prejudicial, and was repeal'd in *Eliz. Cap. 8.* and the Matter referr'd back to *37 Hen. VIII. Cap. 9.* that limited it to Ten per Cent. It is much better in some Cases to pay Interest for Money, and command the Buying of Commodities, than to take them at a long Day of Payment, which I take to be the Case of those Times. I think likewise that the present Limitation of our Laws, doth very well answer the Commands of the Scriptures against biting Interest, Five per Cent. bearing an equal Proportion to Twenty Years Purchase in Lands, at which Rate upon good Security, Money is easily procur'd; nay, as my Author says, at Four by a Security. That I much doubt.

That the Trade of our Nation is in very bad Circumstances, is plainly seen by all thinking Men: This Gentleman prescribes in a Mountebank Manner this *Pan pharmon*, for Curing all Distempers in Trade, even Exportation of Wool, *Page 128.* I must confess, that if all was done in Trade that he prescribes; nay, if we continue Trade, as this Three or Four Years past, with all our Priviledges thrown open to *Holland*, there is a
Necessity

Necessity of Lowering the Interest of Money, or our Trade will be gone. For if One Man hath a free Liberty to Trade, paying but Three *per Cent.* with another that pays Five or Six, the low Interest will in Time get the Trade from the high ; but if we make up our Bounds, and preserve our own Priviledges, we need not lower the Price of Money by a Law, or fear the *Dutch* taking the Trade from us : If we have a great Plenty of Money, more than is absolutely needful in Trade ; it's Plenty will fall its Price without a Law ; and low Interest is certainly the Effect of Riches and not the Cause. I am well assur'd that there is a great Stock of Money in our Trade of *England*, belonging to Foreigners ; but I think it the safest Way to recover out of this Distemper by Degrees, which hath been growing upon us these Thirty Years, to take away the radical Causes of the Distemper. Whatever the Gentleman suggest of the Advantages of Five or Six *per Cent.* to make Merchants of a middle Age grow Lazy. I appeal to the Judgment of those very Merchants, and am well assur'd it's a Mistake ; and that it grows

grows from want of being preserv'd in their Priviledges as *English Men*; and from the prevailing Power of Foreigners, and private Interest in over-powering the Old Rules and Government in the Corporation of the City of *London*, that brought the Disposal of the Native Commodities of our Nation into the Hands of our Factors and Packers in private Houses, who to promote their own private Advantage hath encouraged Aliens, but I proceed to the Gentleman's Conceptions; but in the way, I can't but observe his Remark, *Pag. 27.* where he tells us, *We are not half so much given to Hospitality and good House-keeping (as it is call'd) as in former Days, when our greatest Expence was upon our Bellies.* The most destructive Consumption that can happen to a Nation, and tending only to nourish Idleness, Luxury and Beggary: Whereas that other kind of Expence which follows Trade, encourageth Labour, Arts and Inventions: For my own Part I had much rather gratify my Palate than my Eye, and therefore enter my Protest against the flourishes of Pride: I am sure we are exhorted to Hospitality, after the Ex-

H

ample

ample of *Elijah* for the accommodation of the *Sons of the Prophets*; to put on the great Pot; but I never read of any Incouragement to Pride. I find this Gentleman is a Stranger in the Country, and thinks Husbandry is carried on without Labour. What Advantage doth the Callicoes of the *East-Indies*, to our Employment in *England*? It is the Policy of the City to cry down this publick and hospitable Expence in the Country, thereby the better to maintain that which is more secret in *Old Fish-street*; where One Dinner with Fish and Wine, shall cost more than keeping a Gentleman's Kitching hot with Roast-beef in the Country the whole *Christmas* Holidays, and entertain double the Number with our own Growth; which is like Soiling the Land for another Crop, which kept a good Understanding between Landlords and Tenants; and since all hath been carried to *London*, Lands are Impoverish'd, which makes an Uneasiness on both sides in lowering of Rents; to which being added a greater Burthen of Taxes through encrease of Poor, which begets a Difference at last between the Gentleman and his

his Estate even to parting Terms. To starve the Kitching, to have the Parlor set out with *East-Indian Silks*, Mullings and Tea-dishes, &c. looks like the Reign of *Sardanapalm*, and that the whole Body of Government is sway'd by the Rib, which must needs lead into crooked Paths.

The Gentleman wisely begins his Conceptions, *Chap. 2.* with a new Expedient for the Relief of the Poor, giving so pathetic an Account of their sad and wretched Condition, some Famished for want of Bread, others Starved with Cold and Nakedness, Languishing, unhealthy Bodies, subject to loathsome Diseases, that it can't but spring from a lively Sense of his own tender Compassions; all which he is pleas'd to tell us, *Comes from the Defect of our Laws, that oblige each Parish to maintain their own Poor.* Many Parishes that Forty Years since paid nothing to the Relief of their Poor, are now charg'd considerably: And many others that paid then but One Groat in the Pound now pay One Shilling, whilst their Laws were the same with ours: But whilst the Gentleman gives an Account of some that are eminent-

ly Poor, he himself is a good Remembrance of some that are become eminently Rich these late Years. Whether these Extreame don't answer each other, I will leave to better Judgments. My honourable Author tells us, *Page 46. That no Persons are more beneficial to Trade in a Nation than Ingrossers*; which I profess is a Mystery beyond my Apprehension. When the Callicoes were ingross'd, it might make a *Sampson* or a *Goliath*; but the Advantage to those that were out the Commodity, which were the greater Number, I can't perceive.

The new Platform that he prescribes is this; *That the Cities of London and Westminster, and the Burrough of Southwark by Act of Parliament shall be Associated into One Province, or Line of Communication for Relief of all Poor that come*; which, he tells us, *are the Vitals of the Body Politick, which being once made Sound, the Care of the other will not be difficult*, *Page 65. And that they shall Receive and Relieve all that come, after the Mode of Holland, without enquiring what Nation, much less what Parish they are of*: This eminent
Charity

Charity is to be Transacted by an Assembly of Seventy Citizens, that are to be chosen by the People, most part of Non-conformists, who are excellent Instruments for this Work. I thought the Gentleman was a Favourer of that Party, by the Length of his Arguments, in which he seldom misseth Sixteenthly and Lastly. These are to be incorporated by Act of Parliament, with perpetual Succession by the Honourable and Significant Titles of Fathers of the Poor, to sit De Die in Diem, Wearing some honourable Medal, to appoint Deputies under them, who shall have full Power to Assess and Receive into their Common Treasury so much Money from every Parish, as they Yearly Paid to that Purpose any of the Three Years preceding this Constitution, and compel the Payment thereof, to have the Patent for Farthings in their Charter, and a Power to Collect the Charity of all People once every Lord's Day, as likewise Week Days at the Play-house Doors, and to receive all other Charity of well-disposed Christians; And that these honourable Fathers of the Poor, shall admit any One into their Societies upon the Payment of One Hundred Pounds for the Use of the

Poor, to be fully impower'd to send what Poor they see fit to Her Majesties Plantations, and Employ the Rest at Home as the United Wisdom of so Grave an Assembly shall think fit.

The Treasure is to be accounted Sacred, but not to be Fenced with any manner of Oaths, or other Test in renderness to the Non-conformists: Which I think in this Case are none but Quakers. I will not undertake to Censure the Frame of this excellent Project, only offer my own Scruples. I can't but a little object at the pompous Management of the Affair, with the honourable and significant Titles and Medals, whilst true Charity always runs in a more private and secret Channel, The Left-hand not to know what the Right-hand doth, and can't but doubt there is a little of the Pharisee in the Composition, in this Age where we drive so much at a Shew without Substance. In the next Place, the select Number of Seventy puts me in mind of the Seventy Priests that attended upon the famous Image of Bell, and I am afraid that the great Retinue of this honourable Court of Charity will be like the private Attendants upon that

that famous Image, that Eat up the Sacrifices, having provided so good a Back-door by Exportation of our Poor, whose Leanness could never discover the Cheat. *Daniel* had been at a Loss here with his Ashes. The Management of it by Citizens, makes me farther doubt, That if our present Laws for Relief of the Poor were destroy'd, there would be an Addition of Supplicants attending with the Orphans of the City of *London* petitioning for new Laws again. As the World now goes, there is just Ground of Uncharitableness in Charity its self, and private Designs lurk under the most specious Pretences: How Cool are our hot Zealots against Popery, now their private Designs are not fully answer'd, and the Model of Government not exact to their Splenetick Fancies. The Sense of our Taxes out weigh that of Popery.

But since this Gentleman hath discover'd so generous a Motion in himself to Charity, which he tells us, *Shall appear upon his Part in visible and apparent Demonstrations*, Page 79. And further assured us, *That it is no accidental Motion, but came by Succession, Charity running in the Blood, that his*

deceased Father studied the same Work. I doubt not if this Conception should prove Abortive, but we shall see a discreet Piece of Charity: There can be no stifling of so good a Design, whilst he is known to be so great a Master of Invention, and hath declared his good Opinion of Hospitals, where there can be no Jealousy in a plentiful Endowment, and never could any Man command more agreeable Objects; if his Designs are not very Extensive, he may find poor Widows enough that lost their Husbands in the War against the Great *Togul*.

The Gentleman in his next Chapter favours us with his Judgment of Companies of Merchants, following his levelling Design, Which, he tells us, are of Two Sorts, those that Trade with Joyned-stock, as the East-India Company, or those that Trade separate as the Hamburg. To carry on the East-India Trade, a Company, he tells us, is needful, but gives his Judgment against other Companies who Trade separate from the Example of Holland, who thrive best in Trade without Companies.

The Parallel of which is no more, than that One Gentleman that hath a large

large Circumference of Ground and Deer to Stock it, shall not Impale it because another doth not, that hath neither Ground nor Deer: He tells us, *There is no Pretence of Good to the Nation by Companies, but Order and Regulation of Trade.* This I confess is *Ratio una*, but not *Unica*; for as I humbly Conceive, the chief Ground of Incorporating Trade, is to secure the Priviledges of our own Native Commodities to our own Subjects, in those Places where they are most acceptable and advantageous: As I think is plain from the Practice of our Ancestors, in Incorporating the *Flanders* and *Germany* Trade in the Hands of the *Merchant-Adventurers*, the *Russia*, *Turkey* and *East-land* Trade, which are the only proper Places for Cloth.

Having had occasion to speak of Companies of Merchants already in the General, I will here only consider the *East-India Company*; Which, he tells us, Page 144. *is the most beneficial Trade that this Nation drives at present*; where I will first consider the Constitution of the Company, how far that is National, and then its Operation for the Good of the Publick in its Effects. The

The principal Stock is much less than the Old East-India Company, as he tells us, by which it is plain, that the Trade is chiefly carried on by Money at Interest, which makes the more for the Principal; the Company paying no more than Four *per Cent.* so no Advantage to the Publick. This Stock being small is evidently got into few Hands. This Trade is manag'd by a Committee, which is every Year to be chosen, where every Five Hundred Pounds principal Stock adds a Vote, so some few of the Principals joyning together, by the Multitude of their Votes sway the Election, and a Necessity of some of the chief Actors to be continu'd; which I take to be the Cabinet-counsel of the Trade: Others of the Committee, being every Year changed as the Lot falls, is a means to preserve the constant Station of others. The Commodities that are bought, are manag'd by the chosen Committee, and they Act at the Sale to decide Differences by the Hand. The lower Form of this Company is Stock-jobbing, into which any One may come that will Buy an Action, and pay the Company Five Pounds for

for Admission, and live well enough if his Wits be sharp. These are sweetned with a Dividend as oft as the Cabinet thinks fit, but live by *Credo quod habes & habes*. Here is a subtle Trade drove in this Form, when Two Sharpers meet with a Cully.

And if you think you are in a Noose, you dare not speak, because it will make your Stock worse; and when you have got out at a Loss, the briskness of the New Chapman will make you think you have Sold too good a Pennyworth. This Cabinet likewise Governs the Sales of their Goods, they only knowing the whole of their Occasions; where sometimes the necessity of Affairs hath required a private Sale of Goods for a speedy Advance of Money, and then the extraordinary Profit may be well enough divided: Sometimes Goods have been put up in large Lots, which can't be bought but by few, who are well enough agreed amongst themselves: This is a kind of blind Hotcockles, which is manag'd as often as their Affairs will admit of Ingrossing, so that the greatest Part of the real Profit of this Company hath been carried away by less than
Twenty

Twenty Families. He tells us, That the Company takes no Money at Interest but for a certain Time, but doubts not, but that generous Company doth many times Pay before it is due, to gratifie any Gentleman. Here I must Observe, That when Arbitrary Power began to be the Mode, this Honourable Company was early in the Fashion; and upon a certain Time they Wrote over their Door, That the East-India Company would Pay no Money until such a Time; which was as high a Touch upon our Laws as any we had, having so many Bonds upon them; no Man I must confess can Pay Money before he hath it, which I suppose was the Case then; but because Solomon tells us, the borrower is Servant to the lender, this at best look'd a little Saucy, whilst we liv'd under Laws, and there might have been a more civil Answer.

This Stop of Cash which made their Ships go away light Freight'd (if I am not misinform'd) begot a War with the Great Mogul, their Commodities being made ready in dependance upon the usual Supply; and the Goods got into Hand and Ship'd off without Payment, could do no less than work upon an Indian Spirit, who are

are peaceable enough in fair Dealing; But that which is most Material to be consider'd, is the Commodities they furnish us with, and how they are procur'd. The Gentleman tells us, *Page 143. That the East-India Company carry out Quantities of Gold and Silver Annually to Purchase their Goods; and bring us Home painted Stuffs, Callicoes, Pepper, Salt-petre, Indico, Drugs, Couries.* I will pass by the painted Stuffs, because the Butcher beat his Boy for paying too dear for a specked Calf, and consider the Callicoes, which I take to be the Strength of the *East-India Trade*, from their being become the general Wear in *England*. He tells us, *Page 146. That were it not for this Trade, the Use of Callicoes in England would be supply'd with Foreign Linnens at greater Prices.* This is a Point that deserves serious Consideration: For my part I am well satisfied, That Five Shillings formerly in fine Hollans, went farther than Ten Shillings do now in these Cotton Commodities; but will intermeddle no more with Particulars in this kind, fearing a Resentment.

We had a hot Discourse lately, of carrying on the White-Paper Trade

in

in England; a very useful Project, and well laid, had we not unluckily wanted Materials to Work upon. The ancient Society of Rag-gatherers are totally destroyed, which in former Times carried on a pretty Trade, and furnish'd the good Women in the Country with Pins: But as the *East-India* Company flourish'd they faded, a more numerous Society; and hereby our Nation is at Fifty Thousand Pounds Charge to buy this Commodity in Foreign Parts. He tells us, *Page 90. That the first East-India Company settled upon that narrow limited Interest, although their Stock was much larger than this decay'd, and finally came to Ruin and Destruction: Whereas on the contrary, this being settled on more Rational, and consequently upon more Just, as well as upon more profitable Principles, hath increas'd to treble their First Stock. As to the First Company and This, there is no compare, for there was no Liberty given to export Foreign Coin and Bullion, until the 15th of Caroli II. which he owns is the Strength of this Company, which I take to be a very pernicious Act to this Nation. The Time of its making is just ground of Suspicion.* The

The ~~Turkey~~ Company likewise hereby took liberty to send Silver to ~~Turkey~~. The carrying our Bullion to this hot Climate, to procure Callicoes (which hath been a visible hindrance to these Linnens, which were the mediate Effect of our own Manufacture) is a double Loss. It hath evidently increas'd our Expence in Linnens, and lessen'd the Price of our Wool, that we are less able to Buy.

As to the other Commodities of Salt-petre, Pepper, Indico, &c. I am well assur'd, That these Commodities would be cheaper to the Nation in a general Trade to the *East-Indies*, in which Trade, there would be a Necessity of carrying out our Manufactures of Cloth and Serges; for when Ships go out at no certain Mark, they must take Commodities to work upon. The Circumstances of our present Affairs, thro' the great Danger of the *Streights*, seems to press hard, to find out what Vent we can for our Manufactures by way of the *East-Indies*; and the scarcity of Money in Trade, urges no less for the Repeal of the Act for Exportation of our Bullion. In receiving One Hundred Pounds in *London*, you shall scarce
see

see one Five Shilling piece of large Money, and if you weigh this Hundred Pounds, it shall want Five Pounds in Weight, which I doubt not but is gone the same way to buy Callicoës; and what comes from the *West-Indies*, is all gone to its opposite Point, for it is a Rarity to see any new Coin.

The Gentleman prettily observes, That One Reason of the Complaint of the Scarcity of Money in the Country, was the bringing it up in Waggon, which was for no other purpose but to have the large Money pick'd out for this End, which made him so readily hit upon the Reason, being of solid Weight. A general Liberty of Trade to the *East-Indies*, is in my weak Opinion the Interest of the Publick; our Merchants being lessened in the *Flanders* Trade, and a Necessity of more to manage our *Spanish* Trade. Should here be a large Subscription at this Time, it might be wanted, where we are sure of a Profit to the Nation. But this in Submission to better Judgments, and only an inferiour Judgment offer'd to a Superiour. Had the Gentleman left out the Word
Just

just in his applauded Constitution, it had been well, for I can't but judge, that the Practice of Stock-jobbing is the greatest Nursery of Deceit and Cheating as any we have going, which was first Established by this Company, and is now become our most considerable Employ.

I will pass by his Act of Navigation which he commends, but by the multitude of Discourse upon it, I can't tell whether he hath been Plaintiff or Defendant, and come to his next Conception, *Cap. 5.* which is the Transference of Debts. The Project he tells us, will *Encrease the useful Stock of the Nation a Third Part*: The Gentleman's Talent leads him very much to an Artificial Advance of Riches, whilst the Old Rule is safest, *Quantum quisque sua nummorum servat in Arca Tantum habet & fidei*; less resort in those Days to the Mint and White-Friars. The Project is this, That by Act of Parliament all Persons that buy any Goods for Time, above the Value of Ten Pounds, shall be obliged to give Bills for the same under their Hands and Seals, which Bills by Assignment from one Man to another for other Goods, shall be full Payment. I am of Opinion, that this is not Practicable

cable in *England*, where the Bulk of Trade is manag'd between the Country and the City at a great Distance. Supposing for Example, That a Clothier should bring his Goods One Hundred Miles to *London*, and here should be offer'd for it Bills from an unknown Hand, he hath no way to inform himself any Thing in the Matter but by *Londoners*, who are usually very tender of each others Credit: Or a Shop-keeper at *York* should buy Goods of a Linnen-Dra-per in *London*, and give his Bills; what Satisfaction could this be to a Merchant in *London* to except this Bill as full Payment? Here would be many Cheats acted. Paper (as we understand Trade now) doth not pay Debts. And what the Gentleman suggests of Gold-smiths Notes, that by no means doth answer this Matter; that being only a speedy Passage to save an immediate Pains, and this a considerable Time to act any Cheat. The Credit of great Persons would hereby get an Advantage of those of less Note in Trade.

And as to his Second Answer, *That no Man can be Cheated but with his own Consent*; and we commonly say,
caveat

caveat Emptor, I think his Reason ought to be more refin'd before he is fit to make a Judge : Why should any Person be put upon a Temptation, to part with a Certainty for an Uncertainty? And how can a Country Man and a *Londoner* be upon equal Ground in dealing in this Way, and where is the impartial Justice?

But whatsoever Difficulties and Contests do hereby arise, he hath conceived a Remedy at Hand, by a Law-Merchant in his next Chapter, which shall speedily decide the Controversie. He hath shew'd himself a compleat Interloper, and left but one Step that he hath not attempted. I will not here answer for his Thoughts, Merchants to be Privy Counsellors, Judges, Fathers of the Poor by Election of the People.

His Model is this; *That it be Enacted, that in the City of London there shall be a Court-Merchant, consisting of Twelve able Merchants, (answerable to our Twelve Judges) to be chosen by the Livery - Men the Munday before Michaelmas, to be Authoriz'd to hear and determine all Differences and Demands that arise between Merchants,*

Tradesmen, Artificers, Masters and Owners of Ships, Sea-men, Boat-men, Freighters of Ships, or Money due for the Sale of Goods, or any other Thing relating to Trade or Shipping, to extend to all Actions done in the City of London, or Ten Miles adjacent; to be a Court of Record as the Judges are, that they, or any Three of them, shall have Power to Convene all Persons before them, and to have as full Power as the Judges. An appeal from Three to a greater Number, but afterwards to no lower Court than the House of Lords: That they take nothing for their Pains directly or indirectly, but Six-pence each for signing every small Order, if the Money do not exceed Ten Pounds, Twelve-pence, not exceeding One Hundred Pounds, and Two Shillings for every Sum above, and they themselves are to make a Table of Fees for their Officers. These are to be Elected anew every Year, and Six of the Old Judges to be cast off.

The Gentleman hath omitted, (through Forgetfulness I suppose) to name Counsel and Attorneys, which I humbly conceive will be absolutely needful according to the Ancient Rule, to implead each other, fearing otherwise there might be Swallowing

ing without Chewing, and too great a Croud at the Door of the *House of Lords*. The Court I must confess is cheap enough, were we secure from the Word *Indirectly*; many Merchants having been us'd so long to private Commission for doing of Business. And then to have Six new Ones every Year, not a Merchant in a little Time but hath been a Judge, and the Station so slippery, only the Sense of the People, it will be thought by some to be a Harvest.

The honourable Gentleman tells us, Page 31. *Nec Natura aut Lex operantur per Saltum*. To turn a Merchant into a Judge, seems to me to be an Act *per saltum*; and how it will be digested by a Second Brother, that hath spent his whole Time in unfolding the Mysteries of the Law, and refining his Reason, when he shall see his Younger Brother acting in this Station. There are greater Qualifications needful to make a Judge, than this Gentleman at present thinks upon. There can be no doubt of the Fitness of the Proposer to make One of the Twelve himself: And yet I find this very Gentleman Quarrelling, Page 45. against Two Laws (that he

would have repeal'd) that were never made, viz. One against Inn-mates in Towns and Cities, which is against Reason, and excepted in the Statute 31 Eliz. Cap. 7. against Inn-mates in private Places in the Country; the other that obliges Parishes to maintain their own Poor only, whilst our Laws are more Reasonable, and impower the Justices of Peace to charge the next Parish to assist, or the Hundred, where one Parish is over-charged with their Poor.

I doubt it will be hard upon our Livery-Men to keep a due Temper (being naturally Hot) in all these Elections, Common-counsel-men, Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Law-Merchants, Fathers of the Poor, and as oft as any Die, to be fill'd up by Election; having so great a Concern of the Government upon their Hands, I fear they will be ready to manage the whole by Election.

But I proceed to his next Conception, Chap. 7. which is an Act of Naturalization; *The Necessity of which Act*, he tells us, *is so generally own'd and assented to by all degrees of Men, that he no way doubts but a short Time will produce it*; and only takes care like
like

like a Harbinger, to make way for its effectual Operation, by laying aside the Priviledges of Incorporated Cities; the Societies of Artificers that have greater Priviledges in some Corporations than Strangers. The Branch of the Statute 5. *Eliz.* which Enacts, *That none shall use any Manual Occupation, that hath not served an Apprentiship thereunto.* The Statutes of *Eliz.* are an Eye-sore to him thro' the whole Design. I profess, considering the Gentleman's Confidence, I wonder he don't speak his Opinion of the Statute of *Westminster, De donis Conditionalibus*, that unlucky Prop of Monarchy. He gave it a Broad-side in his Law of Gravel-kind that he recommended; and another Touch in despising One Thousand Pounds left to a Young Son of a Gentleman to make a Merchant. The Force of this Statute to his bosom Friend, the rich Milliner is like the intense Sword that hang'd by a Horse-hair over *Damocles's* Head at the Dainties of *Dionysius's* Table, which a little pills his Thoughts, when for his Diversion he takes a Walk into his large Folio of Debts, to view his extravagant Profit, where he hath a kind of

secret Converse with most of the considerable Gentlemen of the Country; and altho' he hath never a Park of his own, he can there find where he can command a Piece of *Venison* at any time, by drawing out an Account of the oldest Date. But I correct my self here, being sensible that this Gentleman is a greater Master of Design, well knowing that he that foolishly attempted to pull off the Horse-tail at once, sat down in a Disappointment, whilst he that pull'd Leech by Leech at first, soon brought it into his Power, and effected his Design.

The Country Gentleman's Estate for many Years last past, hath been like *St. Lawrence* upon the Grid iron, unluckily Moulded on both sides. The nimble Current of our new Fashions as oft as our *East-India* Ships came home, made his Task as hard to keep out of their Looks (if bless'd with Daughters) as *Ulysses* had to pass by the *Cyrcens*, and upon the other Hand the Value of his Wool sunk, and the other Products of his Estate.

The only Difficulty he finds, is with the Jews, because they can't intermarry with us: Which I profess
with

with me is the greatest Inducement, being very tender of having our *English* Breed spoil'd. I am here methinks ready to ask the Gentleman, whether he is fully satisfied that our Tempers will agree? Or whether these great Merchants that are to be Naturaliz'd, who have been always us'd to a Commonwealth-Government, will be easie under Monarchy? This I am assur'd of by Experience, that the Merchants of the *Still-yard* that were indulg'd by *Henry III.* were a great hindrance to our *English* Merchants in Trade, and it was a great Difficulty to get rid of them again. The Gentleman seems to foresee some such Doubts, and lays down a Principle or Two.

1. That all Men by Nature are alike, and takes Mr. *Hobbs* for his Voucher; there is a particular Quality amongst our true *Britains*, a kind of Magnetick force in their Fingers, whether it come from the soil that they are bred in, or how I can't determine; and it is said, That *Cælum non animos mutant qui trans mare currunt*: But this is too deep for my understanding.

2. Fear is the cause of Hatred, and Hatred of Separation, in which he seems to press as hard for a toleration in Religion, as if there was nothing done in it.

The Advantage that offers to Consideration in this Particular, is the encrease of Hands in Trade, and the encrease of Stock: *Edward III.* in the Infancy of Trade recover'd Manufactures enough by the Stop
of

of our *English* Wool from Exportation; and the Case can't be much alter'd in the other, if we secure our own Priviledges; for the same *Dutch* Money that now buys our Native Commodities at home, will be brought to our Merchants Ware-houses at *Hamborough, Rotterdam* and *Dort*, or where they are fix'd for the best Accommodation, which will soon come over; and that Merchant that hath an equal Priviledge in *England*, and a better Interest abroad, will be sure to carry the Trade: So that by this Act we give away the Priviledge of the Merchandise of our Native Commodities to Aliens, if not Monarchy too.

I come now to his Eighth Chapter, where he toucheth upon Wool and Woollen-Manufactures, Which, he tells us, is eminently the Foundation of our *English* Riches. He first complains of Exportation of Wool, and then tells us, He doubts not but we shall see some more effectual Laws to prevent it; but in a Page farther, puts us out of Hope again, by telling us, The Dutch will be able to give a better Price for our Wool, and they that can give the best Prise for a Commodity, shall never fail to have it by one means or other notwithstanding the Opposition of any Law, or Interposition of any Power by Sea or Land; after which he puts this material Question, What will improve our Woollen-Manufacture in Quality and Quantity; Which, he tells us, is a very great Question, that he hath many Years consider'd not Solitarily, but by
Converse

Converse with the skillfullest Men in the Woollen-Manufactury; and indeed speaks like a Philosopher to the Point. To advance the Quality of it, he first condemns all Laws that held it to a Goodness, and then gives a Liberty to any Person to make it as he pleases, to strain it as much as he sees fit, and makes a Confusion in all Trades; a Weaver to be a Tucker, Fuller or Dyer; and tells us, Page 132. That straining of Cloth is absolutely necessary for the Trade of England; if we did not do it, the Dutch would buy our unstrained Cloth, and carry it into Holland, and strain it Six or Seven Yards in a Piece in Length, and make it look a little better to the Eye, and carry it to Turkey and out-sell us. The Gentleman hath here discovered himself to be a perfect East-India Merchant, and that he knows nothing in the Woollen-Manufactury; for all People know that straining of Cloth doth spoil the looks of it: He then puts a Question to himself, Whether it would be the Advantage of England to leave all Men to a Liberty, to make what Cloth and Stuff they please; how they will, where and when they will, of any Lengths and Sizes?

I Answer Yes, except Colchester Bayes, Perpetuanaes, Cheanys, which should be allowed the Honour of the Publick Seal, to be bought and sold here, and beyond Sea, as if it were upon the publick Faith of England. These Commodities that he Names, are the most inconsiderable in the Woollen-Manufactury.

story. I doubt he is here in a delirium, and I hope I shall be able to set him Right. By his better Thoughts, Page 3. he recommends to us the Practice of Holland in their exact making their Native Commodities, *That the buyers will accept them by the Marks without opening; and as much condemn our Practices, that ours prove Deceitful; That our Business of the Admage, which our Fore-Fathers design'd for a scrutiny of the Goodness of the Commodity is now of no Signification, and Seals may be bought by the Thousands, and put upon what the Buyers please.*

I would here ask the Gentleman, whether this Exactness in Holland, doth come from the Care of the Government, or from giving a free Liberry as he here adviseth. For further Satisfaction in this Point, I will give you his Opinion. After he tells you this, Page 161. upon the same Subject he tells us, *That publick Justice and Honesty, will make it the Interest of other Nations to Trade with us; that is, when our Commodities pass under a publick common Seal, which is the publick Faith of the Nation; they may be exact in Breadth and Nature, according to what they ought to be by their Seals; so that this being but a Parenthesis, I will give no farther Trouble.*

In his next Chapter he treats of the Ballance of Trade, in which he first tells us in the Study of Trade, there is an Infinite not to be fathomed. He takes notice before of His Majesty's recommending the Bal.

Ballance of Trade to the Parliament, a worthy and prudent Consideration. But I think in his Treatise upon the Point, he hath gone so far from the Scope of his Theam, that had he been under Discipline, he must have undergone the Correction. He would have us to understand by the Ballance of Trade, an Account made up for the whole Nation in the Particulars of Profit and Loss, in which I must confess there is an Infinite; and first makes an Essay towards it by the Value of Exchange from foreign Parts, but is there at a Loss: But at last centers in a Satisfaction on our Side, that all is well from the Multitude and Increase of Shipping, which I think is the greatest Uncertainty imaginable, it being always intermix'd with other Nations: A greater Part of Trade drawn to *London* than formerly, and more Shipping at home at some Seasons than other, had his Majesty's Gracious Recommendation for the Good of his laborious Subjects, been answered by an Account how Exchange did govern from all foreign Parts, or that he had a multitude of Shipping in the River, there had been need of an Expositor in the Matter.

The true Ballance of Trade, (in submission to better Judgments) I understand to be in the first Place, to make Trade equal to all their Majesties Subjects in their Stations, that some by private ingrossing and intriguing Ways may not oppress others,
in

in a strict Care of preserving publick Markets. In the next Place, That Companies of Merchants shall not defer their Ship-pings to advance Goods to an extraordinary Price abroad, and likewise the Returns home; this concerns the Publick.

And then upon the other Hand, in a prudent Laying of our Customs upon foreign Commodities, to the Advance-ment of our Trade; where Commodities for our Service come in Competition, which ought to be a well-studied Point; to take care that our Imports to maintain our Pride and Luxury do not exceed the Exports of our Native Commodities; and the most ready Way to inform our selves herein, I take to be an Enquiry how the Price of Foreign Silver do govern? If the Price of that be above our Coin, be sure we don't encrease our Treasure; and this I think is the just Ballance of Trade. And were our Care in these Particulars, but answerable to the benign Favour of Providence, we should soon appear to be the most glorious Nation in the whole World. I find little remarkable in this Chapter, more than Page 149. where he gives us an Account of the noble Society he keeps.

*O nummi! vobis hunc præstat honorem:
Vos estis fratres.*

I shall give the Gentleman no Distur-
bance in his Discourse of the Plantati-
ons,

ons, having taken so good a Care to furnish them with People: And had he not been Conscious to himself of the Weakness of his own Arguments to reduce Interest of Money, he had never troubled the World with old Reasons, that were given to bring it from Ten to Eight, whilst we are already at Six.

And thus much for the Conceptions of the Honourable Sir *Josiah Child*; where, in my weak Opinion, *pariuriunt montes*, he hath conceived Much and brought fourth Little. And yet a Matter of greater Desigo, than can be easily fathomed: He hath laid down a great many Things Ambiguously, where he hath a Sense that he can save himself: *First*, That we have now much more Money in *England*, than we had Twenty Years past; which may be, and One Quarter belonging to Aliens. *Page 23.* He tells us, *If Interest of Money was reduc'd to Three or Four per Cent. our Nobility and Gentry, whose Estates be mostly in Lands, may presently upon all they have, instead of Fifty write One Hundred: The Gentleman by long Use in multiplying the East-India Actions, hath brought himself to a Habit of large Speaking; but suppose they wrote Two Hundred, what then?* *Page 145.* He tells us, *That the East-India Goods exported hence, do produce in Foreign Parts, to be return'd to England, six Times the Treasure in Specie, that the Company exports from hence; which by its*
Face

Face seems to imply, That for every Shilling carried hence, by the *East India Company*, they lodge Six with us from other Parts, which hath no Shadow of Truth; but he can save himself by the Return in Goods.

There is a remarkable Sort of Cunning in the *Lapwing*; if you come into a Field in which is her Nest, she will express the greatest Concern by her loud Crying when you are farthest from it, to put you upon the more diligent Search, when she is most secure; and seems unconcern'd where you are nearest, to make you the more remiss. This Gentleman hath a warm Nest of these Cotton-Commodities, that hath hurt many a Gentleman in his Estate, when he hath not been well sensible of it; which doubtless he is willing to continue: And farthermore the Opinion of so great a Person in a doubtful Point, will go far with those that do not give themselves the Trouble closely to examine Matters.

Ipse dixit, put an End to all Controversies amongst *Pythagoras's* Scholars.

